

Report Polls indicate more Israeli political impasse

Recent polls by various Israeli media outlets suggest the regime is facing more political deadlock come November when yet another election will be held, an unprecedented fifth over the past three years.

The polls predict the former broad-based coalition that lost its majority in the wake of one Parliament or Knesset member of Arab origin withdrawing her independent party's support, will not gain another majority.

It was one of the most fragile coalitions put together by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and now caretaker PM Yair Lapid, who will rule for the next four months, until another election.

Lapid is said to be the brains behind the campaign of putting together eight parties to oust Benjamin Netanyahu from power. Such was the anger and embarrassment towards Netanyahu's divisive and corrupt policies, Lapid even convinced a Knesset member of Arab origin who won her seat on the back of Netanyahu's violent policies towards the Palestinians to join the coalition.

Around a year later more violence towards the Palestinians and in particular recently at the al-Aqsa mosque (Islam's third holiest site) and it's vicinity, led the Arab party member to withdraw support, thereby triggering the beginning of the end of one of the most fragile coalitions since Israel's creation in 1948.

As Bennet has already ruled out any form of participation in the November election, Lapid launched his electoral campaign and has been quoted as warning "what we need to do today is go back to the concept of Israeli unity. Not to let dark forces tear us apart from within. To remind ourselves that we love one another, love our country," he pleaded.

Interview Taekwondo coach Maddah unhappy with unfair treatment in Asian championships

TEHRAN - Iran women's taekwondo national team head coach Minoo Maddah hailed her team's performance in the 2022 Asian Taekwondo Championships but expressed displeasure over not receiving the Best Coach Award.

Iranian women won six medals in total to grab the first-ever title at the Asian Taekwondo Championships held in the South Korean city of Chuncheon last week.

"I congratulate the Iranian nation on this great success. We are delighted that could make our compatriots happy," Maddah said in her interview with Tehran Times.

Maddah hit back at some critics who have undermined the level of the competition.

"The Asian Taekwondo Championships was held in the country that is considered as the birthplace of taekwondo, so definitely the level of the competition was so high. South Korea, China, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, and other teams brought their best players and tried their best. I really wonder how some people in our country want to undermine the level of competition and make it look like a low-quality tournament," she said.

"Fortunately, thanks to the internet and social networks because there is nothing to hide in this regard, and everything becomes clear by a quick search on the Internet," said the head coach of the Iran national team.

Nahid Kiani (-53kg), Akram Khodabandeh (+73kg), and Zahra Pour-Esmail (-73kg) won the gold medals in their respective weight classes to take the country's gold count to three - one more than Iranian women had managed throughout the past 24 editions.

Maddah's team also collected a couple of silvers through Mobina Nematzadeh (-49kg) and Nastaran Valizadeh (-62kg), along with Zahra Sheidaei's -57kg bronze.

Iran, Syria Open New Chapter in Relations



Iran's annual electricity generation rises 6.4%: report

TEHRAN - Iran's electricity generation increased by 6.4 percent in 2021, making the Islamic Republic the world's 11th largest electricity producer last year, according to British Petroleum (BP)'s latest global energy report dubbed "Statistical Review of World Energy".

Based on the mentioned report, Iran managed to generate 357.8 terawatt-hours of electricity in 2021, 20.6 terawatt-hours more than the figure for the previous year.

The average annual growth of electricity production in Iran during the ten-year period ending in 2021 is estimated at 4.3 percent, the report said.

The Islamic Republic accounted for 1.3 percent of the world's total electricity generation in the said year.

British Petroleum statistics show that Iran's nuclear electricity generation in 2021 faced a 44.2 percent drop compared to the previous year. Iran

accounted for 0.1 percent of the world's nuclear electricity generation in the said year.

Iran joined the world's nuclear power producing countries a decade ago with the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

The U.S. is the world's leading country in using nuclear power for electricity generation, accounting for 29.3 percent of the world's total nuclear electricity generation.



Consecutive quakes struck wind towers in southern Iran

TEHRAN - Consecutive quakes, the strongest of which measured 6.1 magnitude, have hurt some 50 centuries-old wind towers (badgirs) in southern Iran.

The earthquakes hit the village of Laft on Qeshm Island in Hormozgan province Early on Saturday, CHTN reported.

"Powerful quakes and its several aftershocks inflicted damage to 50 wind towers, which are reminiscent of innovative Persian architecture in

oasis towns or scorching places," the provincial tourism chief Sohrab Banavand said on Saturday.

The Jameh Mosque of the village suffered damage as well, the official said.

Teams of cultural heritage experts were dispatched to the region and they are on standby to inspect any possible harm to historical sites of the province, the official added.

Situated on the northern coast of Qeshm Island, Laft is one of the best places in Iran to encounter

the fast-disappearing traditional culture of the Persian Gulf.

Perched on a rocky slope overlooking the Khoran Strait, Laft has a wonderfully photogenic roovescape of badgirs (wind towers) and minarets.

According to Lonely Planet, views are best from the hill near the ruins of the Portuguese-built Naderi Fort. "From this vantage point, you'll also see dozens of ancient wells and a white-domed Ab-Anbar (water cistern)."

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Interview We have entered new Cold War: research scientist

TEHRAN - An executive director and principal research scientist at the MIT Center for International Studies says that the globe has entered a new Cold War in light of the Ukraine war.

"It's a challenge because of Russia's nuclear weapons and the likelihood that we have entered a new Cold War," John Tirman tells the Tehran Times.

"The effects of the war include high oil prices and food insecurity for large parts of the world. These are acute effects and could become chronic," Tirman adds.

He also says, "Putin's ambitions are difficult to discern and this is worrisome, too."

When NATO leaders met in Madrid on June 29-30. They discussed important issues facing the military alliance. The summit has set the alliance's strategic direction for the future, ensuring that it will continue to adapt to a changing world and keep its one billion people safe.

They also officially invited Finland and Sweden to become NATO members. The summiteers also reaffirmed commitment to NATO's open-door policy for aspiring members.

Finland and Sweden, two Nordic states which had not been seeking to join any military bloc, requested to join NATO after Russia launched war on Ukraine on February 24.

Koniko Yamamura, narrator of "Immigrant from the Land of the Sun", dies

TEHRAN - Koniko Yamamura, the Japanese-Iranian narrator of the Persian bestseller "Immigrant from the Land of the Sun", died from a respiratory problem at Tehran's Khatam al-Anbia Hospital on Friday.

Due to her marriage to an Iranian man, she was called by her Iranian name Saba Babai. She shot to fame after her 19-year-old son Mohammad Babai joined Iranian soldiers during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and was martyred in April 1983.

"Immigrant from the Land of the Sun", her memories of living in Iran written by Iranian author Hamid Hesam was published in 2020.

The book has been translated into Arabic, Turkish, Russian, Urdu and Pashtu.

Japanese Ambassador Kazutoshi Aikawa and a number of his colleagues paid a visit to Yamamura a few days after her admission to the hospital.



Iran's top negotiator meets Russian deputy FM



TEHRAN— Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, visited Moscow on Friday.

According to a tweet posted by the Russian Mission in Vienna, Bagheri Kani met with Sergei Ryabkov, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

The Russian ambassador to Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, and the Iranian ambassador to Moscow,

Kazem Jalali, also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Ulyanov tweeted, "It was a very professional exchange of views on the current situation around the #JCPOA and prospects of the #ViennaTalks. My assessment: despite all the difficulties, the nuclear deal still can be restored. For this to happen the U.S. should demonstrate greater flexibility."

After a months-long pause, Iran and the United States officially resumed indirect talks in Doha, Qatar. The talks started on Tuesday and lasted until late Wednesday. Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator for the nuclear talks, conveyed messages between Iran and the United States. The U.S. lead negotiator in Doha was Robert Malley, Joe Biden's special envoy for Iran.

The nuclear talks, which started in April last year, is intended to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Senior MP: Differences with U.S. on economic benefits, sanctions not resolved

TEHRAN— Head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament has said that Iran and the United States have not reached an agreement on the economic benefits of the JCPOA for Iran during their recent talks in Doha.

Vahid Jalalzadeh made the remarks in an interview with the ICANA news agency published on Saturday.

Iran and the U.S. held indirect talks on Tuesday and Wednesday in Doha through European Union coordinator Enrique Mora. The talks took place soon after EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell visited Tehran for talks with relevant Iranian officials.

Jalalzadeh went on to say that the negotiating partners almost agreed on concluding the talks to revive the JCPOA in Vienna in March as the two sides agreed on some details and implementing certain steps, yet the U.S. backtracked and therefore talks came to a 4-month halt.

"The U.S. backtracked on the promises it made to the European parties, China, Russia and Iran in the same negotiations in Vienna, unfortunately, it broke them and there was a break in these

negotiations for about 4 months. And finally, Mr. Mora and Borrell maintained this connection in commuting and exchanging the messages and finally reached the conclusion to continue the negotiations in Doha, Qatar," the legislator stated.

The MP said unfortunately Tehran and Washington could not reach agreement on two issues in Doha: "One is the issue of our economic benefits, and the other is the issue of the 'red list of the sanctions'. In this regard, we reached a list with the Europeans and the Americans in Vienna, and we said that this list should be removed from the red list, but the Americans said that they will again add these people to the red list if anything comes up," Jalalzadeh continued.

The MP added that the U.S. is turning its back on its promise regarding the red "list of sanctions," noting that it doesn't work that way.

"We keep negotiating and the U.S. could add these people to the red list under any pretext? No. It doesn't work that way," he underlined.

Iran does not seek 'talks for talks': MP

In an interview with IRNA news

agency published on Saturday, Sara Falahi, head of the nuclear sub-committee of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the parliament, said the United States and the European countries are not in the state of putting forth conditions for Iran.

Referring to the withdrawal of the U.S. from the JCPOA and Europe's inaction in fulfilling its obligations under the agreement, the legislator said, "Europe and the United States are not in a position to set conditions for the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Fallahi added that a few days prior to the recent indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. in Doha, the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors issued a censure resolution against Iran to make Iran "surrender".

"Yet, the whole world saw that Iran not only did not surrender, but also cut off the beyond-Safeguards cameras. Hence, this shows Iran's strong and firm reaction to the Board and the countries on the other side of the negotiations," she noted.

The legislator also pointed out that Iran will not back down from its positions, highlighting that Iran's diplomatic apparatus will

A BRICS membership could be Raisi's biggest post-regional foreign policy achievement: diplomat

TEHRAN — Abdollah Sohrabi, assistant to the Iranian foreign minister, has told Iran's state radio that if Iran's membership request to the BRICS secretariat is accepted, then this will mark the most important post-regional achievement of President Ebrahim Raisi in his foreign policy.

Referring to Iran's geopolitical and geostrategic position in West Asia, Sohrabi said on Saturday that Iran seeks to revive its historical assets and in this direction the government is trying to put all its campaign slogans into practice, one of the most important of which is relationship with neighbors with an economic approach.

Pointing to the active political

and diplomatic achievements of the Raisi government, he said, "The visit of the president of Tajikistan to Iran after 9 years, the visit of Turkmenistan's president to our country after 6 years, the visit of the Venezuelan leader to Tehran after 6 years, the visit of the Emir of Qatar to Tehran after 10 years, the visit of the Iranian president to Oman after 6 years and the visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Iran after 6 years show the diplomatic activity and traffic jam of the government."

Elsewhere in the interview, the diplomat stated that the revival of the Silk Road network, now renamed Belt and Road Initiative, is possible by connecting it to the North-South



corridors, clarifying that in this regard, regional agreements in the meeting with neighbors are very important in realizing this task.

Stating that all the world's economists admit the fact that the Asian continent will be the world's leading economic power in the coming years, he said, "The Islamic Republic has planned to join economic blocks and post-regional agreements for a long time."

Stating that Iran has many capabilities in the fields of agriculture, economy, industry, and science, Sohrabi said Iran has proposed to join the BRICS by relying on its capability and talent.

"20 years ago, in the meeting with Putin, the Leader of the Islamic

Revolution spoke of the necessity of creating a gas OPEC and the BRICS group has been one of the examples of new alliances," the diplomat outlined.

The assistant foreign minister pointed out that Iran intends to join BRICS, which could be considered as the biggest post-regional foreign policy achievement of Raisi's government, just like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"Iran is going to enter BRICS in a situation where BRICS member states possessed 26% of the global economy in 2021. These countries account for more than 40% of the world's population, and this is a sign of the great talents and capacities of this alliance," he concluded.

FM says Iran strongly opposes possible Turkish military acts in Syria



TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Saturday that Tehran strongly opposes any possible Turkish military operation in northern Syria.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks upon his arrival in Damascus on Saturday morning for consultation with the top Syrian officials on the latest regional and international developments.

The comments by the Iranian foreign minister came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced after a cabinet meeting on June 27 that Turkey would start new military operations as soon as preparations on Syrian border were completed.

"We are entering a new phase of our decision to establish safe zone 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) deep south (of the Turkish-Syrian border). We are clearing Tel Rifaat and Manbij of terrorists," TRT World quoted Erdogan as saying.

Talking to reporters before departing for Damascus, Amir Abdollahian said, "In continuation of my trip to Turkey four days ago, it is necessary to have consultations with the Syrian officials."

The foreign minister added that developments are taking place in the region, and the foreign ministry must try to ensure that Iran, as always, is playing a constructive role in the region and is trying to prevent the emergence of a new crisis in the region.

Amir Abdollahian then pointed out, "Part of my trip to Syria is done with the aim of establishing peace and security in the region between Syria and Turkey, as two countries which have important relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He then noted that another part of his trip is to pursue bilateral relations and consult with Syrian President Bashar Assad, as well as the Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad. and other high-ranking Syrian officials regarding various issues at the regional and international level.

Upon his arrival, the foreign minister was welcomed by his Syrian counterpart. Immediately

after landing in Damascus, Amir Abdollahian condemned the Saturday morning raid in Tartous by the Israeli regime.

"Iran condemns the Zionist aggression this morning on south of Tartous. The Zionist regime is trying to show Damascus as an unsafe city with its attacks in order to obstruct the return of the Syrian immigrants," the top Iranian diplomat said.

Two civilians were injured in an Israeli missile aggression on a number of poultry farms in the vicinity of Hamidiya town, south of Tartous, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported Saturday.

"Nearly at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, the Israeli enemy carried out an air missile aggression from over the Mediterranean Sea, west of the Lebanese city of Tripoli, targeting several poultry farms in the vicinity of Hamidiya town, south of Tartous," a military source told SANA.

The source added that the Israeli aggression injured two civilians, including a woman, and caused some material damages.

Amir Abdollahian continued, "The recent visit of President Bashar Assad to Iran is a turning point in the relations between the two countries, and we have entered a new phase in all fields."

For his part, Mekdad said, "We stand by Iran in its vigorous follow-up to the nuclear talks, and we support its position in this field."

Later in the day, Amir Abdollahian held a meeting with the Syrian President, Bashar Assad.

On June 27, Amir Abdollahian paid a visit to Ankara to discuss the recent regional and international developments with Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkey's foreign minister, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We clearly gave voice to our sensitivity and considerations about the Zionist regime's moves and the fact that wherever they went, they have been source of crisis and insecurity," the foreign minister said after meeting Cavusoglu.

The two top diplomats also discussed developments surrounding Syria within the Astana process.

In line with outlining Tehran's position for Cavusoglu, Amir Abdollahian also reiterated Iran's principled position for a political solution to the Syrian crisis and that it is necessary to avoid any military action in the country, underlining Tehran's readiness to facilitate talks to reduce security concerns on Syria.

Amir Abdollahian says Iran seeks to reap full economic benefits of JCPOA

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has noted that the negotiations to resurrect the 2015 agreement can bear fruit if Washington behaves realistically and gives Tehran strong assurances that it would be able to fully enjoy the deal's economic provisions.

Two days after the completion of the most recent round of negotiations to lift Washington's sanctions against Iran, Amir Abdollahian stated in a tweet that the Islamic Republic will continue its diplomatic efforts with power and rationality.

"A realistic approach by the U.S. and attainment of a long-term guarantee over Iran's full economic benefits from the agreement can bring about

a fruitful outcome at the negotiations," the top diplomat remarked.

In addition, he asserted that Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani will continue to work in close cooperation with him to lift the sanctions that were reinstated against Tehran following Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the multilateral agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

After Iran and the U.S. wrapped up two days of indirect negotiations, mediated by the European Union in the capital of Qatar, Doha, Amir Abdollahian tweeted in an effort to break the deadlock and revive the JCPOA.

Iran and the EU promised to stay in touch "about the continuation of the route and the next stage of the talks."

The talks in Doha come after seven rounds of inconclusive negotiations in Vienna, the capital of Austria, since April of last year.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's Ambassador to the UN, stated on Thursday that Tehran will coordinate with the European Union on the next round of negotiations.

After giving a statement at a UN Security Council meeting, Takht Ravanchi wrote on his Twitter account, "Our team is ready to engage constructively to reach a deal"

China calls on U.S. to correct mistake regarding Iran, JCPOA

TEHRAN— The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman has said the United States should make up for its mistakes concerning the Islamic Republic and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

The U.S. is the source of problems related to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Zhao Lijian, China's spokesman and Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department, emphasized that the nuclear accord protects the international community's common interests.

The Chinese envoy mentioned the recent indirect talks between American and

Iranian negotiators in the Qatari capital Doha, expressing optimism that the U.S. and Iran will continue diplomatic efforts to reach an agreement on remaining issues in order to remove hurdles to complete compliance with the JCPOA.

He urged the U.S., which caused the current crisis, to make reparations and actively respond to Iran's legal concerns.

According to the Chinese diplomat, the U.S. is expected to make every effort to reach an agreement on the resurrection of the JCPOA as soon as feasible.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the European Union mediated indirect negotiations between the United States and Iran in Doha.



Following the indirect talks, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian thanked Qatar for holding the meetings in a phone call with his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani.

On Saturday, Iran's foreign minister urged other parties to the 2015 nuclear deal to abandon their double standards

in order to establish a good and durable agreement on the deal's renewal.

In May 2018, the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement and re-imposed sanctions on Iran.

In April 2021, Tehran and the remaining parties to the deal, which includes Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, began talks to resurrect the JCPOA, holding multiple rounds of negotiations in Vienna, Austria, with the U.S. participating indirectly.

However, though most technical issues have been resolved Washington has failed to make a political decision to guarantee Iran's dividends from possible revival of

the agreement.

Tehran points out that the nuclear talks should result in a verifiable lifting of sanctions because Iran has met its commitments under the JCPOA, but the other parties have not taken any concrete steps to open global markets to Iran and provide Iranians with the financial and economic benefits of the deal.

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.

Iran, Syria open new chapter in relations

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian visited the Syrian capital on Saturday for talks aimed at further strengthening relations with the Arab country.

Amir Abdollahian's visit to Syria is part of a regional tour that also included Turkey. The Iranian foreign ministry said the aim of the visit is to discuss bilateral issues and exchange views on regional and international developments.

Upon his arrival in Damascus, the Iranian foreign minister was received by his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad, who described the visit as “very important that comes after a lot of local, regional and international developments,” according to Syrian state news agency SANA.

“We stand by Iran in the nuclear file and we support its stance in this regard,” Mekdad said.

The Iranian foreign minister also attached great importance to relations with Syria. He said that the latest visit of President Bashar al-Assad to Tehran was a turning point in the relations between the two countries, adding, “We have gone into a new stage in all domains.”

The visit comes amid successive developments in the region,



including Israel's attacks against Syria. The Syrian foreign minister said the situation in Syria required consultations between Tehran and Damascus, especially in light of Israel's attacks in Syria and its threats against Iran.

Amir Abdollahian's trip coincided with another Israeli aggression against Syria on Saturday. SANA reported that two civilians were injured in Israeli missile aggression on a number of poultry farms in the vicinity of Hamidiya town, south of Tartous.

Citing a military source, it said the Israeli aggression occurred at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday from the direction

of the west of the Lebanese city of Tripoli.

Mekdad said the aim of Israeli moves against Iran and Syria is to weaken the Axis of Resistance.

Amir Abdollahian condemned the Saturday aggression against Syria. “Iran condemns the Zionist aggression on southern Tartus this morning. The Zionist entity is always looking to destabilize security and stability in Syria and is trying with its attacks to show Damascus as an unsafe city to obstruct the return of the displaced Syrians,” he said.

Israeli attacks have elicited increasing criticism from Iran, Syria, and Russia in recent months.

On June 10, Israel targeted the tarmac of the Damascus airport, putting the airport out of commission for days because of the damage done to the runway. Speaking at a meeting of the UN Security Council, the First Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN, condemned Israel's airstrikes on Damascus airport.

Russia even said it was preparing a proposal for a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel. Earlier, Russia summoned the Israeli ambassador to Russia, Alexander Ben Zvi, to convey its protest over the attack. Mikhail Bogdanov, the deputy foreign minister of Russia, told the Israeli diplomat that Moscow wasn't pleased with the justifications offered by Israel thus far and that it was waiting for additional clarifications “within the framework of the existing Russian-Israeli mechanism to prevent dangerous incidents in Syria.”

Given the growing cooperation between Iran and Syria, the two countries could amplify their defense cooperation to put an end to Israeli aggression. Tehran and Damascus have moved to strengthen their relations in various fields and that is no obstacle to boosting their defense cooperation.

The West forcibly backed down from some positions: advisor

TEHRAN – Mohammad Marandi, an advisor to the Iranian negotiating team at the nuclear talks, has said that the West was compelled to give up some of its positions in recent months and they will be forced to give up other positions in order to resolve the remaining issues.

Marandi added in a press interview that Iran demanded throughout the negotiations that took place in Vienna to give it tangible guarantees. He rejected Western rumors that seeking these guarantees are beyond the nuclear agreement, Al Alam reported.

Marandi explained that the Americans and Europeans, despite their resistance, were forced to accept the Iranian demands, one after the other, gradually. He explained that the tangible guarantees that Iran is now also demanding are for the continuation of the nuclear agreement and not an issue outside the agreement, because it

was America that violated the agreement during Obama's era and during the time of Trump who tore up the agreement, and Biden also refrains from implementing the agreement.

The advisor to the Iranian delegation said arguments by the West that Iran has violated the nuclear agreement are aimed at putting pressure on Iran so that Western countries can extract concessions from it.

Responding to a question about the possibility of activating the so-called snapback mechanism by the West or even a military clash, Marandi said that the Americans and Europeans are not in a position to create new crises. He pointed out that those who raise this issue want to raise anxiety in Iran in order to concede to greed and sign an agreement full of flaws, but the truth is that the situation of the Westerners is very volatile and that Iran is the

dominant player in the negotiations.

With regard to the upcoming scenarios, the advisor said the West, which was forced to back down from some of its positions in the past months, is also forced to give up now in order to resolve the outstanding issues and reach an agreement.

This is necessary because the positions of the Westerners conflict with the full implementation of the nuclear agreement and the return of the Iranian economy to its normal state, he added.

He said, “Another thing is the coming of winter and the energy crisis facing Westerners. Iran's demands are reasonable and compatible with the framework of the nuclear agreement. Therefore, the most reasonable policy for the Westerners is to agree with Iran and accept its logical demands before the cold weather and the winter come around, instead of blaming others.”

Iran, Iraq FM's discuss Hajj collaboration

TEHRAN – The top diplomats of Iran and Iraq has held a telephone conversation in which they discussed a variety of issues, including the two countries' cooperation on the Hajj.

Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein discussed expansion of bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

In the phone conversation, Amir Abdollahian thanked Iraqi authorities for their efforts to facilitate the Iranian Hajj pilgrims' affairs and called on the Iraqi government to follow up on the remaining issues of Hajj, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Iraq is the coordinator of Hajj affairs between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister announced Iraq's assistance in pursuing the remaining issues related to this year's Hajj pilgrimage. He stressed the Iraqi government's readiness to prepare the ground for the start of political talks between

the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Baghdad.

Hussein also expressed hope that the talks would lead to positive developments and the resumption of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two important countries in the region.

Amir Abdollahian briefed on Iranian Hajj pilgrims

The Iranian foreign minister also spoke over the phone with the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Seyyed Sadeq Hosseini, and was informed about the latest situation of Iranian pilgrims.

In the conversation, the Hajj chief expressed satisfaction with the situation of pilgrims as well as the services provided to them.

“In the process of the arrival of Iranian pilgrims to Jeddah and Medina airports, as well as their accommodation and performance of Hajj rituals, the necessary

cooperation with the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been made by the relevant executive agents of Hajj affairs in Saudi Arabia up to this moment,” He stated.

Sadeq Hosseini said that all the pilgrims from Iran are doing well and emphasized that none of the Iranian pilgrims has faced any problems so far, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Amir Abdollahian also elaborated on his consultations with the Iraqi Foreign Minister to facilitate the journey of the “dear pilgrims of Islamic Iran to the Land of Revelation”. The foreign minister expressed hope that this year's Hajj will be held successfully and will lead to full satisfaction of pilgrims from Islamic countries, including Iranians.

In the phone call, Amir Abdollahian informed the head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of the latest Iraqi-Saudi talks and the forwarding

political relations between Tehran and Riyadh.

Thousands of Iranian Hajj pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia for the religious season. Iran's top Hajj official also traveled to Saudi Arabia to oversee the procedures for Iranian pilgrims.

Hosseini noted that the officials concerned with the executive procedures had made great efforts despite shortage of time to provide the required requirements for pilgrims, including housing, food and transportation.

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

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

Iran ambassador to Armenia meets with Amir Abdollahian

TEHRAN – The Iranian Ambassador to Armenia, Abbas Zohouri, on Friday met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and gave him a report on the holding of the joint economic commission of Iran and Armenia, the state of Tehran-Yerevan ties in various fields and developments in the Caucasus.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian also underlined the necessity of continuing the consultations between high-ranking officials of the two countries over political and regional issues, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iranian foreign minister also gave the ambassador necessary instructions as to pursuing agreements with Armenia within the framework of the joint commission, especially

cooperation between the two countries in infrastructure and energy issues.

Iran and Armenia are in the process of boosting their ties. In mid-June, Alen Simonyan, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, traveled to Iran at the invitation of the speaker of the Iranian parliament and met with Amir Abdollahian.

Simonyan said that his country is ready to open a consulate in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz. He said the establishment of the consulate general of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Armenia's Syunik Province is a turning point in bilateral relations and announced Armenia's readiness to establish consulate general in Tabriz, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In this meeting, Amir Abdollahian called Armenia “an important friend and neighbor of the Islamic Republic of Iran”. Citing high-level political relations between the two countries, Amir Abdollahian stressed the need to develop economic cooperation and take advantage of the two countries' diverse capacities. He expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to increase trade volume with Armenia to \$1 billion a year.

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

SPORTS

Taekwondo coach Maddah unhappy with unfair treatment in Asian championships

From Page 1 ▶ “All of our athletes did their best in the tournament. Valizadeh lost her gold due to inexperience. It was her first international competition, but I still believe she could have won the gold, and she lost in the last moments of the match just by her own mistake. The rest of our athletes were at their best, although they can still be better in the future tournaments,” she added.

The Iranian Women's team concluded the event with 500 points for their 1st title. China finished second with 379 points, 32 points clear of the hosts South Korea.

Surprisingly, Maddah did not win the tournament's Best Coach Award, and it was awarded to Bijan Moghanloo, the head coach of Iran's men's taekwondo national team, while in the men's event, Team Iran finished 5th, with three silver medals and one bronze!

“Honestly, I was both shocked and sad,” Maddah said unhappily and continued: “For the first time in the history of Iranian taekwondo, we were able to win the Asian title and achieve an important success. I expected to get the best coach award but it didn't happen, and I don't know why,” Maddah implicitly said that she was thinking of ending her cooperation with the women's taekwondo national team.

Brazilian midfielder Carlos on verge of joining Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN – Brazilian midfielder Jean Carlos is reportedly on the verge of joining Esteghlal football team.



The 30-year-old player currently plays for Brazilian club Náutico in Série B.

Esteghlal newly-appointed coach Ricardo Sa Pinto has reportedly shown interest in signing the Brazilian player.

Carlos started his playing career in Palmas in 2010 and has also played in Goiás, Novorizontino, Coritiba, São Paulo and Mirassol.

Persepolis target Zahedi extends contract with Puskas Akademia

TEHRAN – Iranian forward Shahab Zahedi has penned his contract with Hungarian team Puskas Akademia.

According to m4sport.hu, Zahedi has penned a one-year extension.

The 26-year-old striker joined the Hungarian team from Zorya Luhansk in March, as UEFA gave special permission to the players from the conflict-stricken country to switch due to the war in Ukraine.

Zahedi had been also linked with a move to Iranian team Persepolis but he will stay in Puskas Akademia until the summer of 2023.

Due to an injury, Zahedi only played in eight matches last season, but he scored in four of them – according to the club's statement, the player is now healthy and fit for the upcoming season.

Kazakhstan beat Iran at FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan defeated Iran for the second time Friday night during Window 3 of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers.

Kazakhstan proved that their win over Iran this past February was not an outlier. Kazakhstan repeated the feat, defeating Iran 68-60 at the Saryarka Velodrome in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's top playmaker, Rustam Murzagaliyev, seized the opportunity to show his shooting prowess in this match. He led all scorers with 26 points to go along with 7 rebounds. Dmitry Gavrilov and Roman Marchuk also did well with 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Iconic big man Hamed Haddadi finally returned to action for Iran in his first game of this World Cup Qualifiers, scoring 18 points, grabbing 10 rebounds, and blocking 4 shots.

Iran and Kazakhstan will face each other again in the upcoming Asia Cup as they are both in Group C, fiba.basketball reported.

Iran, headed by Saied Armaghani, will travel to Aleppo to play Syria.

Iran sit second in Group D with eight points, two points behind Kazakhstan.

Gvelesiani officially pens deal with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Georgian defender Giorgi Gvelesiani officially penned deal with Persepolis football club.

The 31-year-old center back has joined Persepolis from Sepahan as a free agent player for an undisclosed fee.

Persepolis have previously completed the signing of Alireza Beiranvand (goalkeeper), Morteza Pouraliganji (defender), Danial Esmaeilifar (right winger), Mohammadmehdi Ahmadi (left winger) and Soroush Rafiei (midfielder).

The team have also extended Milad Sarlak's deal for one more season.

Qatar World Cup; opportunity to illustrate Iran worthy image

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) says the 2022 Qatar World Cup is an opportunity to illustrate the Iranian culture and the brilliance of Iranian artists and a worthy image of Iran in Qatar.

Addressing the second meeting of the coordinating committee for the presence of Iran's cultural teams in the Qatar World Cup, the head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) stressed the role of this organization as a facilitator for the participation of cultural institutions in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, MNA reported.

Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour added that the true purpose of holding such meetings is to create coordination between the related apparatus to bring each of the programs to a desirable end.

Given the very rich and significant capacity of Iran in the field of culture, the 2022 World Cup in Qatar is a ground for introducing Iranian culture and the brilliance of Iranian artists, he stressed.

Holding concerts, street theaters, and local music performances in public spaces and hotels, holding exhibitions of artistic works and the screening of Iranian films in art venues were among the issues raised by Imanipour.

He also expressed hope to use the potential of domestic cultural institutions to demonstrate the worthy image of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Qatar in the best way.

Iran's annual electricity generation rises 6.4%: report



From page 1 ► The world's total electricity generation in 2021 was reported to be 13,994.4 terawatt-hours, indicating an increase of 8.4 percent compared to the previous year. BP had put the world's electricity generation in 2020 at 12,949.3 terawatt-hours.

China was the world's top electricity generator in 2021, accounting for 30 percent of the global electricity generation, while the U.S. was the second-biggest electricity provider, followed by India.

The Islamic Republic's total power

generation capacity currently stands at about 85,500 gigawatts, most of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

Combined cycle power plants account for the most significant share of the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Iranian Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

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

ICCIMA holds Iran-Tanzania business webinar

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) held an online seminar on Iran-Tanzania trade on Saturday in which the trade capacities and the existing obstacles in the way of developing the economic relations between the two countries were explored and discussed.

The webinar was attended by senior officials from the two sides including Chargé d'Affaires of Iranian Embassy in Tanzania Hossein Alvandi, President of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Paul Koyi, Director-General for Arab-African States in ICCIMA International Department Shahram Khasipour, and Vice President of Iran-East Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce Masoud Berahman, as well as some businessmen from the two sides.

As the ICCIMA portal reported, the attendees of the online event stressed the need for resolving banking and transportation problems and the implementation of customs agreements as major factors contributing to the development of economic ties between the two sides.

Speaking in this webinar, Alvandi mentioned the positive political relations between the two countries and noted that there are great opportunities for trade and investment between Iran and Tanzania.



Referring to Tanzania's membership in the East African Community (EAC), he continued: "This has created a good condition for Iranian businessmen to access the markets of East African countries, since Iranian businessmen can use the tariff facilities of this regional union to export their goods to the region."

Further in the seminar, Koyi referred to the long-standing relations between Iran and Tanzania, saying: "Iran is a very important and advanced country in the region, and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce is interested in expanding economic relations between the private sectors of the two countries."

He underlined the fields of energy, petrochemicals, mining, and agriculture to be the most important areas for cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries and called on the Iranian companies to have a stronger presence in Tanzania's economic projects.

Stock market overshadowed by political, economic factors

TEHRAN – Iranian stock market has been struggling for months to get back on track, however various internal and external factors have been hindering this market from reaching its true potential, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mining, and Agriculture (ICCIAM) published on its website on Saturday.

According to Market Analyst Vahid Halalat, the uncertainty of the global economy in the wake of the Ukraine war, the uncertainty about the results of nuclear talks, the unclear situation of the privatization of the country's major automakers, and most importantly,

the lack of enough attention paid by the government officials to the stock market are among the internal and external factors that have caused the capital market to fall behind other markets such as housing.

Emphasizing that these factors have affected the mindset of the shareholders and caused everyone to stay away from the market, Halalat said: "Considering internal factors, the country's major automakers play an important role in the stock market and have a great psychological impact; And since their privatization process has not been realized yet, the



validity of the entire project has become questionable."

He further mentioned the possible positive impact that reaching an agreement in nuclear talks could have on the market, saying: "We hope that the negotiations will come to a conclusion. Because in that case, it can have long-term and short-

Quarterly production by major automakers up 11.2% year on year

TEHRAN – Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 226,428 vehicles during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), which was 11.2 percent more than the figure for the same period of time in the past year, that was 203,529 vehicles, the data released by the Codal website showed.

The Codal's data put the monthly car manufacturing at 104,141 in the third month of the present year.

During the said three months, IKCO manufactured 123,887 vehicles, which was 27.4 percent more than the output in the same period of the previous year.

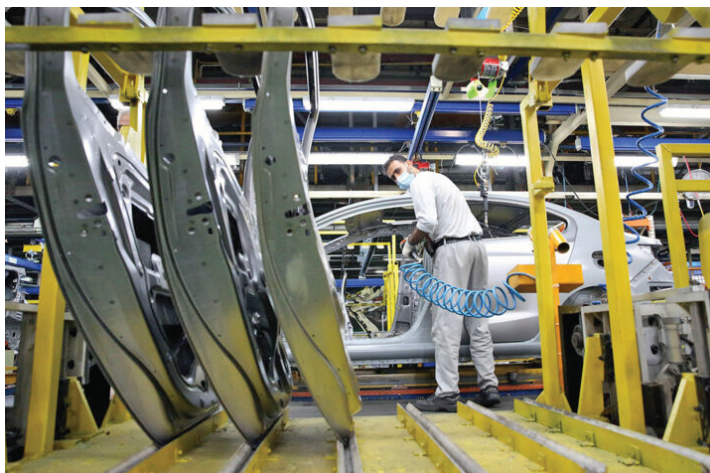
In this period, this industrial group was able to manufacture 77,128 vehicles in the Peugeot group, 18,618 vehicles in the Samand group, 14,611 Dena vehicles, 7,786 Rana vehicles, 3,483 Haima vehicles, and 2,247 Tara vehicles.

The group's output stood at 58,041 vehicles in the third month.

SAIPA manufactured 75,304 vehicles in the mentioned period. Production by this automaker fell 7.79 percent in comparison to the previous year's same time span.

The group's output was 33,465 vehicles in the third month.

Pars Khodro also manufactured 27,237 vehicles in the period under review, 10.58 percent more than the output in the first three months of the past year.



The group's output was 12,635 vehicles in the third month.

Iran's major carmakers had manufactured 867,363 vehicles in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was 3.7 percent less than the figure of the preceding year.

According to Codal data, during the previous year, IKCO manufactured 451,121 vehicles, which was six percent less than the output in the Iranian calendar year 1399.

SAIPA manufactured 304,533 vehicles in the mentioned year, registering a 3.4 percent decline in comparison to the figure for the preceding year. And Pars Khodro manufactured 109,838 vehicles in the past year, showing a 6.4-percent rise from the output of its previous year.

Iran has been ranked the world's 19th biggest automaker in 2021, according to the latest report released by the International Organization of Motor Vehicle

Manufacturers, Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA).

Based on the OICA data, Iranian automakers produced 894,298 vehicles in 2021 to register a two-percent increase compared to 2020.

Iran's car production in 2021 was higher than many industrialized countries such as Italy with 795,000 units, South Africa with 499,000 units, Poland with 439,000 units, Portugal with 289,000 units, Taiwan with 265,000 units, Belgium with 261,000 units, Austria with 136,000 units, Finland with 93,000 units and Egypt with 23,000 units.

China was by far the largest automaker in the world in 2021 followed by the United States.

Iran plans to reform its auto industry in order to increase both the production and quality of its products.

Back in January, Iranian

Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin said the country's automotive industry was going to undergo a complete reform after the implementation of his ministry's two-year evolution program.

Stating that nine transformation projects have been prepared for the automobile industry, Fatemi-Amin said: "The general plan is that in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (started on March 21) the structure of the automobile industry and the relations between parts manufacturers and automakers will be reformed and the overall promised production target will be achieved in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025)."

The minister considered the current situation of the automotive industry very problematic and added: "We have done a lot of work in the automotive industry and we have had good successes and progress, but the result has not been satisfactory for the general public and the customers."

Referring to the complexities of the automotive industry, he noted: "A car has more than 2,000 parts and every day 4,000 cars are produced in the country; We do not have any other industries with such managerial, economic and technological complexities."

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of 1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

Private sector of Iran ready to transit Ukrainian goods

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has voiced the Iranian private sector's readiness for transiting Ukrainian goods through Iran and the Persian Gulf in a meeting with Ukraine's Ambassador to Tehran Sergey Burdulyak.

In this meeting, Gholam-Hossein Shafeie expressed regret for the war in Ukraine, saying: "This war has affected all countries in the region. Because Ukraine is the largest country in the region and due to its unique position in agriculture and mining, the situation in this country affects the economic conditions of other nations in the region."

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, Shafeie further noted that all countries are worried about the deterioration of the world's food industry affected by the war in Ukraine, adding: "Fortunately, despite these conditions, statistics show that our economic relations with Ukraine have been growing."



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Ukraine's Ambassador to Tehran Sergey Burdulyak

"Since a quarter of the world's fertile soil belongs to Ukraine, the Iranian private sector is interested in extraterrestrial cultivation in this country, and due to widespread droughts in Iran, some provinces are already implementing extraterrestrial cultivation in Ukraine," the ICCIMA head said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official also mentioned the closure of transit routes in

Ukraine due to the war, saying: "Considering that Ukraine is one of the major suppliers of livestock and agricultural inputs and is currently facing serious problems for the export of such products, we are ready to transit these products across Iran and through the Persian Gulf."

He referred to the exchange of large business delegations between Iran and Ukraine over the past years, and noted: "There are various fields for cooperation between the two countries and we are ready to take the necessary measures to raise the level of economic relations."

Burdulyak for his part stressed the need for finding ways for developing economic cooperation between Iran and Ukraine, saying: "Iran-Ukraine cooperation can be pursued at three levels. First, meeting the country's current immediate needs, second, reconstruction of damages caused by the war, and third, after the reconstruction of Ukraine, when this country will pass through the current condition."

Iranian oil output surges 16% in 2021: BP

TEHRAN – British Petroleum, in its latest global energy report dubbed "Statistical Review of World Energy" has said Iran's oil production increased by 16.1 percent or 540,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2021 despite the U.S. sanctions.

According to the mentioned report, the Islamic Republic's crude oil production reached 3.17 million bpd last year, from 2.73 million bpd in 2020.

The 16-percent increase in Iran's oil production has been realized while the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member countries managed to increase their production by a total of 2.6 percent last year.

The Islamic Republic registered the second-highest increase in oil production among the world's oil-producing countries in the said year, accounting for 4.1 percent of the world's total output.



Iranian authorities had previously announced the significant increase in Iran's oil production and exports last year.

This report shows that in 2021, 77.83 million bpd of oil was produced in the world, 1.4 percent more than the figure for 2020.

Last year, oil consumption also increased by 5.3 million bpd, however, it remained 3.7 million bpd less than the 2019 level and was still significantly lower than the pre-pandemic levels.

Over 5.5m tons of basic goods transported from ports in Q1

TEHRAN- More than 5.5 million tons of basic commodities were transported from eight port cities of the country to the designated destinations during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), the director-general of cargo transportation department of Road Maintenance Organization announced.

This amount of basic goods was loaded from eight ports of Imam Khomeini, Shahid Rajaei, Chabahar, Amirabad, Fereydoun-Kanar, Nowshahr, Anzali, and Bushehr, and transported

to the desired destinations in the country, Mehrdad Hamdollahi said, adding, "According to the statistics of loading of basic goods from the country's ports, Imam Khomeini port ranks first with the issuance of 132,000 bills of lading and the loading of 3.277 million tons of commodities."

Shahid Rajaei port with 899,000 tons, Chabahar port with 516,000 tons, Amirabad port with 338,000 tons and Anzali port with 182,000 tons are in the next ranks respectively, the official added.

As announced by the deputy head of Islamic

Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 30.9 million tons of basic goods worth \$19.6 billion were cleared from the customs in the past Iranian calendar year 1400.

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

Putting the value of the imported basic commodities at \$19.6 billion in the past year, the official said that the imports show a 60-percent rise in worth and 32-percent growth in weight, as compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399.

TEDPIX loses 12,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 12,000 points to 1.501 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 6.612 billion securities worth 38.148 trillion rials (about \$136.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 11,369

points, and the second market's index fell 16,493 points.

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

From page 1 ▶ Lapid will spearhead another effort to form a second broad-based coalition, but several Israeli media polls suggest he will fall short in successfully achieving that task.

The now newly sworn-in caretaker Premier will face Netanyahu; a man who wins his votes by promising to kill more Palestinian women and children by leveling the 15-year-old besieged Gaza Strip to the ground for another time. A campaign slogan that sits will with Israeli settlers by bringing them a false sense of security.

History shows Israel has never been safe nor secure since the Palestinian resistance went from an intifada (uprising) with stones, which transformed to Kalashnikovs, and more recently in the shape of destructive missiles that rained down on every part of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Netanyahu tends to appeal and form coalitions with the more hardcore Zionist fascist parties that are more fanatical than Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party (difficult to imagine but they do exist) and Netanyahu has previously taken advantage of these parties, shifting the entity more and more to the right to take Palestinian lands only by force and thereby putting an end to any idea of a Palestinian state.

But polls suggest Netanyahu will also struggle to form a coalition as well, more because of his corruption scandal; the man has faced not one, not two but three different corruption charges.

Since 1996 it's pretty much been Netanyahu vs somebody else, but the long-term Israeli ruler will face major challenges trying to put together a coalition of 60+1 in the Israel Knesset's 120 seats.

Observers point to the fact that his corruption trial will resume on September the fifth this year, at a time when the election campaign is in full swing, the 72-year-old, will face difficulty as his former party allies may seek to distance themselves from a man who is campaigning in between attending court sessions. It's just not the best campaign advertisement before an

Polls indicate more Israeli political impasse



election.

The longest-serving Prime Minister is facing separate charges of bribery, breach of trust, and fraud. Under Israeli rule, there is nothing stopping those facing criminal indictment from running for the post of Prime Minister.

But that isn't something to be surprised about as there is also nothing stopping war criminals from running for Prime Minister.

Israeli polls put Netanyahu as slightly ahead of others including Lapid, (which tells you everything you need to know about Israeli settlers considering the publicly stated corruption and the scandals) however, still far short of a majority.

Recent polls predict that neither the short-lived former coalition or Netanyahu's bloc would receive a majority of 61 seats.

Amid the very real and possible political impasse come November, there are major divisions in Israeli society with unrest taking shape in the form of protests and strikes. The rising costs in the housing market which is no longer affordable to many Israeli settlers, who are latest sector of Israeli society planning to vent their anger on the streets in

protest.

Settler bus drivers have just ended their strikes as teachers continue their industrial action while the chaos at Ben Gurion airport also appears to have worsened over the past week; to name just a few crises. The ultra-Orthodox Jewish community continues to clash with Israeli forces over their refusal to enlist in the regime's military. But it's not just about conscription, there have been other practices or policies carried out by Israeli authorities that have sparked violent riots, and most of it doesn't get western media coverage.

Former Israeli PM Ehud Barack expressed fears just recently in what is described as the eight-decade curse "throughout the Jewish history, the Jews did not rule for more than eighty years, except in the two kingdoms of David and the Hasmonean dynasty, and in both periods, their disintegration began in the eighth decade," he said.

The former premier said the present regime constitutes the third experience and is approaching the eighth decade of its existence.

As the years passed, it's an increasingly divided entity, which

analysts have labeled Washington's military base in West Asia.

Experts point out the U.S.-backed alliance of nations supporting Israel is in historical decline. The "U.S. empire" is starting to collapse and Israel cannot be expected to function without the backing of a strong U.S. empire.

As it becomes clear, that the writing is pretty much on the wall, American and Western hegemony, in general, is ending. This would explain Israel's ploy to reach out to some Arab states in a desperate attempt to try and get some form of normalization. Commentators say that is not going to work for the regime as the region in the long run will not accept that.

If a vote was put tomorrow to the people of the four monarchies and rulers that have normalized ties with Israel, the people will categorically reject any forms of normalization with a regime that regularly tramples on their third holiest site and exists by committing the most heinous crimes and cultural genocide.

On the other hand, there is a growing axis in West Asia that has emerged over the past decade or two and have one thing in common: their hatred for the violent, barbaric, apartheid entity occupying Palestinian land. This axis stretches from a newly formed Yemen to a newly formed Iraq to Lebanon, Syria, and the Islamic Republic among others in the international community who are for the first time calling out Israel for what it is.

Former Israeli premier Barack wasn't far off with his assessment about the eight-decade curse which has been echoed by other Israeli leaders, both military and political, using different contexts but ending with the same conclusion of doom and gloom.

And as the Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah famously said in an interview not so long ago, he strongly holds on to the belief that he "will be among the generation that prays at the al-Aqsa Mosque," in the currently occupied Jerusalem (al-Quds).

We have entered new Cold War: research scientist

From page 1 ▶ It seems that NATO expansion can lead to a new phase of the Cold War between Russia and Western powers.

Following is the text of the interview with Tirman:

How do you see the Ukraine war? Is it a challenge or opportunity for the Biden administration?

It's a challenge because of Russia's nuclear weapons and the likelihood that we have entered a new Cold War. The effects of the war include high oil prices and food insecurity for large parts of the world. These are acute effects and could become chronic. Putin's ambitions are difficult to discern and this is worrisome, too. So far, Biden has handled the situation well.

New countries (Finland and Sweden) are going to join NATO. Do you expect such expansion lead to a more serious confrontation between Russia and the West?

I doubt that it will be a trigger for a wider conflict. More significant would be direct U.S. involvement. One can hardly blame Sweden and Finland for wanting protection. They have taken free riding to high art.

What are the main fallouts of the Ukraine war and sanctions on Russia for global economy?

Oil and food prices, falling most catastrophically on the poor, as usual. Even food availability is in jeopardy. So add this to the misery inside Ukraine.

Once again we see the consequences of not developing renewable energy technologies more aggressively. Such negligence will result



in the early death of millions.

Don't you think the sanction policy led by America is going to create new blocs in Asia? For example, Iran, Russia and China are moving toward closer partnership.

Iran will certainly seek such cooperation. China marches to its own drummer. Russia was a second-rate economy before the war and will weaken further. Its value to China is sole as an oil supplier. Iran can use Russia's status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. But only China operates from a position of strength.

To what extent does America need to activate alternative energy suppliers like Iran and Venezuela and appease certain Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia to pump more oil to compensate for the oil embargo on Russia?

Oil politics will be very interesting and consequential in the coming months. The U.S. has coddled the Saudis for many years and now we will see if such a slavish policy will pay off. Among the demands from Saudi Arabia for higher oil and gas production could be ending the JCPOA. It's not a pretty picture.

Two civilians injured in Israeli missile attack on Syrian port city

At least two civilians were injured following Israel's missile attacks on Saturday in Syria's western port city of Tartus.

Meanwhile, a military source said that Syrian air defenses were able to bring down most of the missiles fired by Israeli warplanes from the direction of Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli, according to Syria's official news agency SANA.

The strike "led to the injury of two civilians, including a woman, and some material damage," the source said, according to Press TV.



The development came less than a month after the Israeli military aircraft carried out an air aggression from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights, targeting some points south of the Syrian capital city of Damascus.

SANA reported that Syrian air defenses brought down most of Israeli projectiles during the June 10 attack. The strike caused one civilian injury as well as material damages.

Last May, Syria urged the United Nations and the Security Council to issue a "clear" condemnation of the Israeli regime's recurrent airstrikes on the Arab country's territory.

In a letter to the UN secretary-general and the president of the Security Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said the country hoped the two bodies would "adopt a clear position on the Israeli attacks

on Syrian sovereignty".

Such unequivocal position, the letter added, should be "away from politicized considerations and calculations that contradict the well-established and clear legal and political positions of the United Nations and its bodies."

The ministry also urged the UN to demand that the Israeli aggressor abide by the relevant Security Council resolutions and to immediately and unconditionally stop threatening regional and international peace and security.



Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

Israel frequently targets military positions inside Syria, especially those of the resistance movement Hezbollah which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against the foreign-backed terrorists.

The Tel Aviv regime mostly keeps quiet about its attacks on Syrian territories which many view as knee-jerk reaction to Syrian government's increasing success in confronting terrorism.

Israel has been a main supporter of terrorist groups that have opposed the government of President Bashar al-Assad since foreign-backed militancy erupted in Syria.

Massive fire breaks out at Israeli military facility northeast of al-Quds

A massive fire broke out at an Israeli military facility in the West Bank early on Saturday amid rising tensions in the occupied territories.

According to the Palestinian media sources, the blaze started at the base close to the town of al-Ram, which lies northeast of al-Quds, was still burning.

There were no immediate reports about possible casualties and the extent of the damage caused.

This comes as tensions have been increasing in recent weeks in the wake of Israeli forces' intensified raids, including one in the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of al-Quds.

On June 29, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian fighter in the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin, after armed clashes broke out between the Israeli army and Palestinians following a dawn army raid.

Muhammad Maher Marei died after being shot in the chest. The bullet had pierced Marei's heart, according to the head of the Khalil Suleiman Governmental Hospital in Jenin, Wissam Baker.

"This is most likely a bullet from a sniper that aimed to kill," Baker said.

"This is what we've been getting used to in the recent raids on Jenin governorate – no raid takes



place without lethal injuries. Even those that are wounded come with critical injuries," he added.

The Palestinian resistance group Islamic Jihad said that Marei had been one of their fighters, and died "confronting" an Israeli raid.

Reports of sexual assault, harassment steeply increase in Israeli military

Meanwhile, reports of sexual assault and harassment at Israeli military bases and barracks have increased significantly in recent years.

The Israeli military recorded 46 reports of sexual assault in 2021 compared to twenty-two reports the previous year, according to the Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

The increase in reports of such incidents which were particularly common among female soldiers is

attributed to the fact that troops now know that they can lodge complaints.

This comes as the actual number of sexual harassment and assault is thought to be much higher than what has been announced.

Kan also said the number of requests for psychological support as a result of sexual assaults in the Israeli army has also doubled, and now stands at 542 cases.

Back in February, an Israeli officer was indicted on several counts of sexual assault against three of his subordinates.

According to Kan network, a female soldier filed a complaint against the officer after she was released from the military. The Israeli army then located two other enlisted soldiers who were also allegedly sexually assaulted by the officer.

The military said the officer, who holds the rank of second lieutenant, was charged on February 3 with forcible indecent acts toward female soldiers under his command. Kan said there were 11 charges in total.

The incident came after a military tribunal sentenced an officer a month earlier to a year and a half in jail for secretly filming dozens of female soldiers in intimate situations.

(Source: Press TV)

NATO's soft spot

TAZ reported that in Germany, many citizens who hold pacifist views face questions about whether they can support arms shipments to Ukraine and remain conscientious objectors in case of a war.

The Ukrainian conflict has also sparked a new debate in Germany about whether the authorities should reinstate compulsory service. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has recently proposed compulsory service for women and men in the Bundeswehr or in social institutions, such as nursing homes and homeless shelters, but at the same time, he was opposed to universal conscription.

"Now, of all times, when tolerance for a different way of life and opinion

is declining, compulsory service can become especially valuable," he stressed. "People will step outside their comfort zone, meet other people, and help fellow citizens in difficult situations. It will break down prejudices and build a sense of solidarity."

Earlier, the new head of the Operational Command of the Bundeswehr, Bernd Schutt, stated that the danger of military escalation with Russia on the north-eastern flank of NATO was high. Because of this, the presence of alliance ground troops in the region is important, he said. "That's why the issue of credible deterrence in this region is very important to me. The presence of ground troops plays a key role here," Schutt stressed.

(Source: TRT World)

Number of Germans leaving the armed forces doubles since Ukraine conflict

The number of Germans seeking to quit their service in the country's armed forces, Bundeswehr, has doubled since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the mass-circulated weekly Der Spiegel has reported.

From January to June 2, the Federal Office for Family and Civil Society received 533 applications to leave the service, which is twice as many as last year. The number of applications last year was 209.

Most of the applications (528) were filed by servicemen or reservists.

Most of the soldiers wishing to quit have said "they did not expect a military conflict" as the reason for their decision, a reference to potentially direct hostilities with Russia or deployment in conflict zones of NATO member-

countries. Germany contributes nearly 14,000 troops to the 'NATO Response Force', a joint team drawn from member-nations.

German law has a provision that "no one may be forced to perform military service against his conscience".

Der Spiegel's revelation comes amid a debate in Germany over the Bundeswehr's lack of battle-readiness—shortage of manpower and equipment—in view of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Earlier this month, the German parliament hastily approved a government plan to invest €100 billion to upgrade the Bundeswehr, described as the "biggest rearmament offensive since the fall of Hitler's Third Reich 77 years ago".

Consecutive quakes struck wind towers in southern Iran

From page 1 ► Moreover, a few hundred meters north of Laft is one of Qeshm's many lunge-building yards. These traditional cargo boats are still used to carry goods back and forth across the Persian Gulf. Laft is also the place to go for a boat trip into the nearby Harra Sea Forest.

Qeshm, itself, embraces a wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins, and turtles as well.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It



embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

Laft was registered on the national heritage list in 2006.

Gandoman wetland gets set to become tourist destination



TEHRAN – Local tourism authorities want to improve agritourism infrastructure around the Gandoman wetland in southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

“To achieve this goal, private investors in agritourism are welcomed and supported in this region,” Alireza Jilan explained on Saturday.

Due to the wetland's location on the transit route connecting Iran's central provinces with ports in the southwest and south, Gandoman has become a strategic investment location, especially in the tourism sector, the official added.

Back in June, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said that the Gandoman wetland has considerable potential to become one of the agritourism hubs of the country.

This wetland has a great deal of tourism potential, especially in the field of birdwatching, the minister added.

Wetland tourism infrastructure development, however, should be done in accordance with the laws of the Environment Protection Organization, as well as the preservation of the ecosystem, he noted.

A major part of attracting investors and facilitating their entry into the Gandoman tourism area is providing local officials with the necessary ground to support tourism investors, he explained.

Sour cherry festival held in central Iran

TEHRAN – On Friday, a local festival dedicated to sour cherries, was held in a village in Taft, the central province of Yazd, CHTN reported on Saturday.

“The festival was aimed at promoting self-confidence among villagers, developing sustainable tourism and agritourism, and branding rural products,” the report added.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

It is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.



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

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that attract visitors to the countryside.

A walk into the past: Sassanid town of Bishapur

TEHRAN – Now a top tourist destination in southwest Iran, Bishapur (literally, “The city of Shapur”) was once the grand capital of Sassanid king Shapur I whose armies defeated the Romans three times.

Narratives say much of Bishapur was built by Roman soldiers taken captive after their Emperor Valerian was defeated in c. 260 CE.

Situated south of modern Faliyan, just off the ancient road between Persis and Elam, the city was connecting the Sasanian capitals Istakhr (close to Persepolis) and Firuzabad to

Susa and Ctesiphon.

Surrounded by walls that may have stood some ten meters high, Bishapur was home to some 50,000 to 80,000 people.

The city remained an important city until the Arab invasion of Persia and the rise of Islam in the second quarter of the seventh century. It became a center of Islamic learning (a madrassah has been excavated) and there were still people living over here in the tenth century, but the decline started in the seventh century.

Bishapur has undergone several rounds of excavation so



far. The Palace of Shapur, and a temple dedicated to the goddess of Anahita, were highlights of the digs.

The main monuments have been excavated between 1935 and 1941. Nevertheless, most of the city is still buried, and incidentally, teams of archaeologists returned to the site afterward.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites

situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

Traces of metal smelting workshops discovered in ancient site northern Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have found new traces of metal smelting workshops near the ancient town of Masuleh in Gilan province, northern Iran.

Further evidence concerning the (ruined) structures of metal smelting workshops has come to light in an excavation, which is currently underway near Masouleh, the provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani said on Saturday.

The official expressed hope to establish a site museum for showcasing those traditional metal smelting workshops and their associated cultural heritage in the near future, CHTN reported.

“It is the 3rd archaeological season being carried out here in Masuleh... Previous seasons, held in 1370 (1991) and 1391 (2012), yielded artifacts belonging to the fifth to eighth centuries AH, Jahani said.

The current excavation is aimed to discover fresh evidence of human life in the touristic Masouleh and its surrounding properties.

“Remains of residential buildings, smelting workshops, tools for the extraction and manufacture of metal objects (Challangari), and glazed potteries related to the Seljuk era (1037–1194) were found in previous excavations,” the official added.

Iran vows to remove obstacles to Hegmataneh UNESCO registration

TEHRAN – Iran is determined to remove obstacles to the possible registration of ancient Hegmataneh in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

An (edited) all-inclusive dossier has been prepared to be submitted to UNESCO, but the ancient hill has a long way to go before it is recognized globally, Hamedan's tourism chief has said.

However it seems to be a strong determination to remove the obstacles of the dossier to accelerate the global registration of Hegmataneh, ISNA quoted Ali Malmir as saying on Saturday.

The dossier includes an important section that provides information about tourism facilities in the arena, such as travel conditions, accommodations, tourist routes, and related information required by foreign tourists, he explained.

As a part of the process, tourist routes need to be defined, introduction boards prepared in at least two languages, routes should be prepared and lit, the necessary infrastructure should be identified, and finally, the whole site must be prepared for the UNESCO assessors' visit, the official added.

Back in May, the official announced



that a working group has been formed to identify, investigate and solve potential problems in the path of possible registration of Hegmataneh in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Moreover, Hamedan authorities are ready to take preliminary measures to pave the way for the global registration of Hegmataneh and prepare it to be assessed by UNESCO evaluators, he said.

Earlier this year, a traffic fellow related to a nearby steel marketplace was declared as one of the major barriers faced with the possible registration based on UNESCO criteria.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media

and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenid kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Ecbatana is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869 – 1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmataneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897 – 1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

According to the Greek historian Xenophon of Athens (c.430–c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is described by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer and more beautiful than all other cities in the world; although it had no wall, the palace, built on an artificial terrace, according to Livius, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

Furthermore, an inscription

unearthed in 2000 indicates that Achaemenid king Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404–358) built a terrace with columns in Ecbatana. Some twelve kilometers southwest of Hamedan is Ganjnameh, where Darius I and his son Xerxes had inscriptions cut into the rock.

Polybius, a Greek historian of the Hellenistic period noted for his work The Histories, tells that the builders used cedar and cypress wood, which was covered with silver and gold. The roof tiles, columns, and ceilings were plated with silver and gold. He adds that the palace was stripped of its precious metals in the invasion of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great and that the rest was seized during the reigns of Antigonos and Seleucus. Later, Ecbatana was one of the capitals of the Seleucid and the Parthian Empires, sometimes called Epiphaneia.

Around 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongol invaders. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Traditional needlework on show at tourism ministry

TEHRAN – Sets of traditional needlework from northern Iran, called Rashti-duzi by the locals, have been put on show at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

Rashti-duzi is a crochet

and sewing work traditionally practiced in Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, and its surrounding villages. Crochet and needlework were combined by the masters to enhance the beauty of their products, resulting in very elegant patterns.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a “world city of [diverse]

handicrafts”, Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a “world city of filigree”.

According to organizers, the four-day exhibition will be running through July 6.

COVID-19 cases increase by 3 folds

TEHRAN – In the first week of the Iranian calendar month of Tir which began on June 25, COVID-19 hospitalizations and outpatients have tripled in the country.

Last week, a total of 2,661 new patients with Covid-19 were identified in the country, 443 of whom were hospitalized.

Based on the announcement of the Ministry of Health, the total number of COVID-19 patients in the country reached 7,238,840 people on Saturday.

Also, unfortunately, a total of 11 patients died last week. Based on this, the total number of deaths from this disease has reached 141,390 people.

Of course, last week, during the two days of Tuesday and Wednesday, no mortality has been recorded.

Abbas Shiravjen, a spokesman for the National Headquarters



for Coronavirus Control, said on June 26 that there is a possibility that the virus will emerge with new strains.

Iran has been able to reduce the COVID mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, and this successful experience of the Islamic Republic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister

Bahram Einollahi said on May 27.

So far, about 150 million doses of vaccine have been injected into the Iranian population and the coverage of vaccination in the total population is about 75 percent, he highlighted.

Following the decision of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control and President

Ebrahim Raisi, all universities affiliated with the ministries of science and health, and schools, started education in person on April 3 as the new cases of the disease have notably reduced.

The successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the coronavirus pandemic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control said on June 26 there is a possibility that the virus will emerge with new strains.

One step to water crisis

From page 1 ► In fact, entering a water crisis is an index that is measured based on the amount of water available per cubic meter per person per year, according to this index, if a country has more than 1,700 cubic meters of water per person per year, there is no problem with water resources.

However, if this amount goes below 1,000 cubic meters per person per year, we will enter a water crisis from water stress.

Of course, parts of the country are struggling with a water crisis, but we have not yet reached that stage in the country as a whole.

Now the country is in a position where, due to extreme and climatic conditions, the average rainfall is lower than the similar long-term average, Director of Water and Wastewater Research Center Abbas Akbarzadeh said.

“In the best case, it should be expected that the country will return to the long-term average rainfall, in fact, for hundreds and thousands of years, the average rainfall in the country was 250 mm per year, which has now decreased to about 200 mm per year and is still decreasing.

Forecasts show that rainfall will continue to decrease until 2050. Therefore, if the country receives a short period of rain, people should not think that the situation has returned to normal,” he explained.

In 1920, Iran had about 17,000 cubic meters of water per person, which listed the country among those with rich water resources. Of course, we should note that the population in the country was smaller than now. After that, we experienced the trend of population increase and decrease in rainfall, so that after a few decades, the country experienced water stress.

The predictions of some international forums show that Iran will reach 500 cubic meters of water per capita in 2050, which will be disastrous. But with new technologies, the above problem can be managed and solved, if the necessary plans are implemented and new and technological ideas are used, he said.

One of the solutions is optimizing water consumption in agriculture. The rate that the World Bank has estimated for this sector in order to deal with the water shortage crisis in the MENA region, i.e. North Africa and the Middle East region, is about 40 percent, in other words, if modern irrigation systems are used in agriculture, we can save up to 40 percent of the water consumed in the agricultural sector.

Of course, reaching this number is quite practical, with the development of modern irrigation systems, the expansion of greenhouse farming, and the change of the cultivation pattern.

The next issue in the water management sector is the development and optimization of conventional methods such as water treatment plants, which can be used to reduce water loss or reduce evaporation in the process.

4.8m people at medium to high risk

The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi – have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and



electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million) to the environment, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, has said.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented.

Droughts may affect three-quarters of the world by 2050

The United Nations has warned that droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050.

Droughts are among the greatest threats to sustainable development, especially in developing countries, but increasingly so in developed nations too.

The number and duration of droughts have increased by 29 percent since 2000, as compared to the two previous decades (WMO 2021). When more than 2.3 billion people already face water stress, this is a huge problem. More and more of us will be living in areas with extreme water shortages, including an estimated one in four children by 2040 (UNICEF). No country is immune to drought (UN-Water 2021).

Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

According to the law, agricultural development around the lake's basin is banned, and investigation results demonstrated that no land seized illegally for the agricultural development, he highlighted.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است. فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سیورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند. طبق مصوبه دولت توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسی‌های انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعه‌ای انجام نشده است.

SOCIETY

JULY 3, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Magnitude 6.1 quake rattles Hormozgan

From page 1 ► A 6.1-magnitude earthquake and a 5.9-magnitude quake followed the first 6.1-magnitude quake. There were more than a dozen aftershocks.

The incident cut power lines in around 30 villages with 2,500 families in the region.

A total of 8,630 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar year, which ended on March 20.

Of the total quakes, 167 were more than 4 on the Richter scale, the largest of which occurred on November 14, 2021, with a magnitude of 6.3 in the southern province of Hormozgan.

Statistically, at least one earthquake with a magnitude of more than 5 has occurred monthly in the country.

The northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, the southeastern province of Kerman, and

the central province of Isfahan registered the most earthquakes, while the northern province of Alborz, the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, and the northwestern province of Zanjan recorded the least earthquakes.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes of the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 5

The school of Maragheh

Ptolemy's planetary models consist of couplings of circles. Each epicycle, or small circle of given radius, bears on its circumference one of the planets (with the exception of the sun) and rotates in a clockwise direction for the moon, in a counter-clockwise direction for the five star-planets.

The center of the epicycle rotates in a counter-clockwise direction on the circumference of a deferent circle; but this circular motion is uniform, not with respect to the center of the deferent, but with respect to another point called the equant.

Moreover, the center of the earth lies not at the center of the deferent circles, but in the case of each in the opposite direction from the equant and at the same distance from the deferent-center. (The moon and Mercury have peculiar devices of their own, while the sun has a simple eccentric model.)

These geometric models of Ptolemy, if regarded as representing physical reality, cause the planets to travel in orbits of which the earth is not the center and which, in any case, are not circular; moreover, even the mean motion is not uniform circular motion about the center of the deferent.

But Aristotelian physics attributes to the heavenly bodies uniform circular motion through eternity about the center of the universe, where the earth is located; this is a condition of the perfection of the fifth element.

Therefore, the planets' distances from the earth should not vary; nor should they rotate non-uniformly in their orbits. This incompatibility of Aristotelian physics with Ptolemaic (and pre-Ptolemaic) astronomy had bothered various philosophers and astronomers since antiquity; the Indian models employing double epicycles, for instance, which had been adopted in Sasanian Iran, represent one proposed solution to the problem of maintaining concentricity.

A solution to the problem of the equant was proposed by the astronomers of Maragheh in the thirteenth century. The device that they utilized—a small circle whose radius is half that of a larger circle within which it rolls—is

called a Tusi-couple after its “inventor” (it was, in fact, known to Proclus, but not employed by him in an astronomical context), Khajeh Nasir-al-din Tusi (1201-74).

Tusi edited the collection of treatises known to the Arabs as the “Middle Astronomy,” to the Greeks as the “Little Astronomy,” and the Almagest of Ptolemy. He composed in Persian a Bist bab dar ostarlab and a Zij-e il-khani—the latter at the command of Hulagu (Hulegu, 1256-65), the founder of the Maragheh observatory.

Nasir-al-din Tusi wrote the Hall-e moshke-lat-e mo'iniya and the al-Tazkera in both of which he displays how the Tusi-couple can be used to eliminate the equant. His work was carried on by QoTb-al-din Shirazi (1236-1311) in his Nehayat al-edrak fi derayat al-aflak, written in 1281 (a Persian abridgement was made in 1304/05), and in his al-Tahfat al-shahiya, composed in 1284.

Their theories, as developed by Ebn al-Shatter (1304 to 1375-76) at Damascus, seem to have been known to, and adopted by, Copernicus. But later Persian astronomers, such as Mahmud b. Mohammad Jaghmeni, who wrote a very popular Molakkas fi'l-hay'a, do not seem to have realized the significance of the models proposed by Nasir-al-din and QoTb-al-din.

The Samarkand school and its Indian imitators

In the early fifteenth century Sultan Ologh Beg (1394-1449) built an observatory at Samarkand and gathered together a group of scientists whose task it was to assist him in revising the accepted astronomical parameters of the Zij-e il-khani.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued



COVID-19 UPDATES ON JULY 2

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| New cases | 251 |
| New deaths | 0 |
| Total cases | 7,238,840 |
| Total deaths | 141,390 |
| New hospitalized patients | 65 |
| Patients in critical condition | 195 |
| Total recovered patients | 7,063,049 |
| Diagnostic tests conducted | 52,629,113 |
| Doses of vaccine injected | 150,402,581 |

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JULY 3, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:08 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:52 (tomorrow)

Jamshid in Persian literature

Part 13

Despite such opinions, which did not take into account the oral and written transmission of the text, the style and language of the Videvdad do not prove that it is later than the rest of the Young Avesta, but the common opinion has seriously influenced scholars' study of the Yima myths.

A passage that featured relatively prominently in the early discussions was Videvdad, first discussed by Bruno Lindner and frequently cited in 19th- and 20th-century scholarship, but rarely questioned.

The adjective ayem "evil," which begins the second octosyllable, agrees in case and number with the preceding "upon the world with bones" rather than with the following "winters," to which it obviously belongs, leading to translations such as "upon the bad corporeal world winters will come" instead of "upon the corporeal world bad winters will come," which is the way the Pahlavi rendering has it.

The traditional translation makes it sound as if the winters are a punishment for a humanity gone bad, "sinful humanity", providing an obvious parallel with flood stories such as the one in the Bible.

The Avestan adjective is never applied to Ahura Mazda's creations, however, only those of the Evil Spirit, among them natural disasters, and in Videvdad, the synonymous adjective ayauuatu is applied to "winter" (among the evils characterizing Airiiana Vaejah are the winter and the excess of vuyinas).

Lommel suggested that the phrase referred to the imperfect humans who were not admitted into the vara, but the Avestan adjective is not applied to bodily defects.

In view of the poor transmission of the Videvdad, it is not problematic to assume that ayem has its ending from the previous two words and should be emended to aya to agree with zimu (in the manuscript E10, the ending has also been extended to the verb: zanhentem).

Abraham Anquetil-Duperron, whose translation was based on the Parsi tradition, has "the evil winter," and Martin Haug, realizing the grammatical problem, has the grammatically legitimate translation as "the evil of winter".

This narrative of a flood released by God to punish a humanity gone bad early on provoked speculations that there might have been at least knowledge of, if not direct borrowings from, Mesopotamian traditions; already in 1871, Alexander Kohut opined that the similarities in the stories about Adam and the flood in the Jewish Talmudic and Midrashic tradition with the Iranian ones were due to interaction between the two peoples when the Jews lived under Iranian government. He also suggested that the Yima and the "Meshia" (Mashi) legends were developments of one original legend.

Early attempts to interpret the Yima myth include those by the Indologist Rudolph Roth in 1850, who regarded Yama and Yami as the children of heaven and the thundercloud. Yama was the first man and the first to die and go to the realm of the dead, whose king he became.

Yama's paradise was in heaven, that of Yima on earth. Yima's sin was a late development. Yama corresponds to the Indic first man Manu, who gradually replaced him and delegated him to the realm of the dead.

Friedrich Windischmann, building on Roth's study, in his first study (1852) of the Indic Flood story, compared the couple Manus - Yama

with Greek Minos and Rhadamanthys, an idea that is occasionally mentioned in subsequent literature.

In his next study, Windischmann suggested that Gayumard with his further development into "Meshia" (Mashi) was the first man in the "theosophic form" of the Zoroastrian system, and that Yima was the first man of the old Aryan legend but had to be moved to another place in the system, in spite of the paradisiacal nature of the myth.

In his later work (1863), he suggested that Yima's gift of meat to mankind corresponded to Noah's sacrifice, by which mankind was allowed to eat meat, and that Jam's marriage with the parig corresponded to that of Adam with Lilith, (from which union demons, etc. were born) and to the similar union between Eve and a male devil.

James Darmesteter, in his early essays on (Indo-)Iranian mythology (1877), interpreted the ancient Indic and Iranian myths in terms of the three battles between the representatives of light and those of darkness, whose weapon is the lightning bolt: in the morning, at new year, and after the storm.

In this scenario, the heroes were the agents of the light and came from above, were "men from above." Yima combined the "man from above" and "first man," who, "like all others of his kind," became the king of a legendary kingdom on earth, but was "fatally limited, with a sinister end": he was torn apart by the Serpent with the lightning bolt, an element of the storm myth.

The vara, a celestial abode like Yama's deva-sadana was originally identical with Garudmana, paradise, but the two were separated when Gayumard became first man and Yima's true title was forgotten. The eschatological myth of the destructive winter (not flood!), was the myth of the year, transferred to the life of the universe, but conflicted with the myth of rejuvenation after the storm.

The replacement of the winter by the rain was one of the rare borrowings from Semitic myth, and "Malkosh" is Hebrew "Malqosh," late-season rain. Later, in his Le Zend-Avesta (1893), Darmesteter relinquished his interpretation of Malkus, which he had by now connected with Avestan mahrka "destruction," and thought the legend was borrowed and the function of Noah transferred to Yima with the necessary adaptations.

In the chapter on foreign elements in Zoroastrianism, he devoted a lengthy section to parallels between the Old Testament and Zoroastrian texts; among other things, he suggested that the chronologization of the early history originated in the Bible, which the Avesta used as its model, though the Iranians may have used a Chaldean version of Genesis as model.

The story of the Flood belonged completely to Noah, whereas it is totally unexpected and incongruous in the story of Yima, so much so that the popular tradition simply dropped it. The context in which the borrowings could take place was Babylonia and other Jewish diaspora in the Middle East.

Bruno Lindner recommended caution in assuming that the Flood story was borrowed in view of the universal existence of Flood stories; rather, one should investigate the Indo-Iranian antecedents of the story.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Koniko Yamamura, narrator of “Immigrant from the Land of the Sun”, dies

From Page 1 ▶ Yamamura's death triggered a flood of messages of condolences from Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

Raisi praised Yamamura's contributions to educational centers, charity events and the Tehran Peace Museum, and said, "This immigrant from the land of the sun raised her brave son Mohammad Babai and dedicated his life to Iran, and his memory will live on in the country forever."

Yamamura chose the name Saba after she married an Iranian Muslim in Japan and moved to Iran afterwards, where her life was totally changed after her 19-year-old son Mohammad was martyred.

What made her life distinguished were the events that changed her life.

"I never thought my life story would turn into a book, because if I were living in Japan with my

A file photo shows Koniko Yamamura posing with a picture of her son Mohammad Babai who was martyred during the Iran-Iraq war.

parents, I would have had a typical life, but marrying an Iranian Muslim changed my life totally," she has said.

"After the martyrdom of my son, several writers proposed

writing my biography but I did not consent. However, I met Hesam on a trip to Hiroshima and I trusted him, and the interviews began for the book," she added.

Hesam previously said that he

Reza Derakhshani’s “Simorgh Hunting” fetches about 250,000\$ at Tehran Auction

TEHRAN – “The Simorgh Hunting”, a mixed media on canvas by Reza Derakhshani, sold at the 16th Tehran Auction on Friday for 80 billion rials (about \$250,000 based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = 320,060 rials), a price that made it the most expensive artwork sold at the national sale.

The 198x625-centimeter painting done in 2016 is from Derakhshani's series "Hunting", which has been inspired by elements from Iranian miniature – Persian painting and stories from Persian literature.

The second most expensive work sold at the sale was a 158x110-centimeter oil painting on strong rough cloth by Mansur Qandriz. It sold for 62 billion rials (about \$194,000).

The untitled artwork was followed by "Rabbits, Prelude to Alice in Wonderland", a mixed media on canvas by Fraideh Lashai, and an untitled oil painting on canvas by Kurosh Shishegaran, which sold at 42 billion rials (over \$131,000).

Due to their subjects, two works from the 120 items offered at the auction were excluded from the sale by the General Office

for Dramatic Arts of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

The 16th edition of the Tehran Auction collected 781 billion rials (over \$2.44 million) by selling 117 artworks at its second sales of the year held at the Parsian Hotel.

"Dolls", an oil painting by Siamak Azmi depicting pictures of numerous characters from Hollywood animated movies, was the sole artwork that failed to find a buyer at the auction.

However, an unidentified dealer purchased it outside of the auction at a price of 4 billion rials (over \$12,000).

The 15th edition of the Tehran Auction was held in January, collecting 1588.9 billion rials (over \$5.9 million based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = 265,660 rials at that time). All 80 artworks offered at this auction were sold.

"Seated Poet", a bronze sculpture by Parviz Tanavoli, sold at the auction for 146 billion rials (about \$550,000) setting a record for an artwork in national sales.

“The Doll”, “Makeup Artist” to compete in Melgaço documentary film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movies "Makeup Artist" and "The Doll" will be competing in the MDOC - Melgaço International Documentary Film Festival in Portugal.

"Makeup Artist" directed by Jafar Najafi will be screened in the feature-length film category and "The Doll" by Elaheh Esmaeili will be showcased in the short and medium-length film section.

The film follows Mina, a young woman who is in conflict with her husband as she wants to continue her education and go to university to become a makeup artist in cinema. Mina must divorce or, according to their local customs, allow her husband may marry again and the child belongs to the father. Mina decides to choose a wife for her husband by herself,

A scene from "Makeup Artist" directed by Iranian filmmaker Jafar Najafi.

to insure that the stepmother treats and looks after Mina's son properly.

"Makeup Artist" has been screened at numerous international festivals and won several prizes, including the FIPRESCI Award at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in the Netherlands.

The film also won the award for best feature-length documentary at the 15th Cinéma Vêrité festival, Iran's major international festival of documentary films.

In addition, Japan's Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival honored it with its Award of Excellence.

The winner of the best short

Auctioneer Hossein Pakdel takes a bid for the sale of "The Simorgh Hunting" by Reza Derakhshani during the 16th Tehran Auction at the Parsian Hotel in Tehran on July 1, 2022. The artwork was the top seller, fetching about \$250,000. (Honaronline/Mohammad Namazi)

The 14th Tehran Auction took in 421.8 billion rials (about \$1.6 million based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = 246,000 rials).

The 13th Tehran Auction grossed about 880 billion rials (about \$4 million based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = 221,000 rials).

documentary award at the Canadian documentary festival Hot Docs in Toronto, "The Doll" is about 14-year-old Asal, whose father consents to her marriage. Through a series of astoundingly frank interviews, the secrets and indiscretions of Asal's father are slowly revealed and his true intentions come to light.

The MDOC - Melgaço International Documentary Film Festival will take place from August 1 to 7 by screening dozens of movies from across the world.

The festival aims to promote and disseminate ethnographic and social cinema, looking for films that demonstrate the author's point of view on social, individual and cultural issues related to identity, memory and borders.

“Street’s Feeling” and the loneliest people

An interview with Nafise Alavi

Despite the wide range of topics in our society, social fiction has not had much of an impact in the last decade, but the excellent book "Street's Feelings" about addiction and homelessness is a notable exception.

* Tell us about the creation of this book.

A festival on addiction called "Street's Feelings" took place in 2018. Through this

festival, we hoped to gather outstanding works that reflected on this issue, and we published the selected works in the form of a book called "Street's Feelings 1."

We chose to publish "Street Sense 2" in response to reader feedback on the first book. We also came to the conclusion that this book should be mostly on the experiences of those who have recovered. All of these individuals were spoken to and interviewed, and the information presented is true. Because the recorded interviews were often chaotic, I compiled them all into biography and narrative.

* Why is homelessness the central theme of the two books?

Since they live in the lowest social class and are most likely to bring harm to society, homeless persons are at the biggest risk. They are extremely lonely as a result of having been rejected by their family, society, and ultimately

by themselves.

There is no one to convey the homeless person's voice to society and the government in order for him or her to be saved or for their wounds to heal. We wanted to use our voice to defend the community's most isolated people.

* Are there statistics that show the number of homeless people in the city?

The most recent numbers I read indicated that Tehran's homeless population is believed to number 70,000, but it appears to be more.

* Which story struck you the most as you were collecting these works?

It's difficult to choose which story was the most impressive, but the one that truly struck me included a recovering homeless woman who gave birth to her child in the deserts outside Karaj and then had the child taken from her a short while after. She spent nine years on the streets.