

Iran Ready to Forge Ahead With Talks

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Report

British government in crisis

The pledge of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to remain in power despite losing the public's trust, his party's trust, losing at least 15 government ministers in 24 hours, and losing his integrity following countless scandals and lies offers an insight into Western capitalism and what London labels as democracy.

This is the same democracy Britain tried to promote in Afghanistan by sending a MONARCH (Prince Harry) to fire a machine gun from a helicopter at Afghans on the ground. This was joked about at the time but it was also a fact.

Johnson's Chancellor or Finance Minister Rishi Sunak resigned in the middle of a cost of living crisis and his Health Minister Sajid Javid resigned in the middle of a crisis in the health sector.

Those resignations came following Johnson's humiliating apology over his appointment of Chris Pincher to a senior government role. Pincher is said to have sexually assaulted two people and promptly quit last week after the news emerged. But Johnson admitted to being aware about previous inappropriate behavior by Pincher and still decided to appoint him because he was an ally.

That prompted the resignations of the two senior cabinet ministers and then followed a wave of other government ministers quitting, the positions of which are too long to list. At the time of writing, other members serving in the government are resigning from their posts. Around 30 members to be precise. ▶Page 5

Interview

Iran volleyball coach Ataei thrilled with win over Poland

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Head coach of Iran men's national volleyball team, Behrouz Ataei, hailed his players after defeating the powerful Poland national team in Week 3 of the 2022 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Tuesday night.

Young outside spiker Amirhossein Esfandiari earned in 21 points to help Iran walk away with a 3-2 victory over Poland in Gdansk. Amin Esmailnezhad and Milad Ebadipour also earned 18 and 17 points, respectively.

"Winning in front of more than 15000 spectators in Poland is wonderful," said Ataei after the match. "My players were able to play a fantastic game under the pressure of the hosts' fans. The players were rewarded for all their efforts."

Referring to the lack of international experience of some the Iranian players, the head coach of the national team stated: "Some of our players have played few games at this level and need to find themselves in tricky situations. The Nations League is a tough tournament, and this difficulty helped the young players to perform better than before in every match," he added.

Iran sit in eighth place in the table with 14 points.

Poland were not supposed to have a difficult task against Iran; the opponents who had started rejuvenating their squad under Ataei.

The hosts team had all their key players in the match against the Asian giants, but they could not get the desired result. ▶Page 3

Dear readers,

The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Monday, July 11.



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Washington has not assured Iran on economic guarantees: Iran FM

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Wednesday hosted his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The two chief diplomats held a fairly lengthy meeting focused on bilateral, region-

al and international developments.

Later, the two foreign ministers participated in a joint press conference.

Amir Abdollahian began his statement by welcoming the Qatari foreign minister. He then pointed out that Iranian businesspeople

will no longer have problems regarding long-term residence in Doha.

"We had positive discussions regarding the need to strengthen regional mechanisms and intra-regional cooperation. Qatar has always played a positive role in the field ▶Page 2

Petropars begins drilling operation in Belal gas field

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN - Three years after signing a deal with Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) for the development of the southern Belal gas field, Petropars has finally started drilling the first descriptive-exploratory well in this field.

As announced by the company's Managing Director Shamseddin Mousavi, the drilling operation was officially begun on Monday and a drilling rig called Deepsea Treasure, which is operated by Dana Kish Company as the sub-contractor of the project is located at the field.



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Koshti Gil-e Mardi held in Rasht

TEHRAN - Koshti Gil-e Mardi, which is native to northern Iran, and especially the province of Gilan, was held in Rasht.

In the wrestling, the competitors wear pant and wrestle in an outdoor field.

Koshti Gil-e Mardi is very popular in Iran's northern provinces.

Oil drilling reveals cemetery with giant urn-like tombs in southwest Iran

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - An ancient cemetery bearing urn-like tombs has accidentally been discovered in an oil drilling project off the river Karun in Ahvaz, southwest Iran.

Situated about 150 meters from the river, the cemetery has yielded ancient human remains some beige-colored urn tombs that are coated with natural tar, Iranian archaeologist Hossein Feizi told ILNA on Tuesday.

The urn tombs face the river, suggesting a hypothesis that those burials were made according to Mithraism principles.

"The fact that this type of burial is toward the river strengthens the hypothesis that this cemetery and its burials had links with Mithraism," the archaeologist said.

Mithraism was a sect of Zoroastrianism characterized by the worship of Mithra as the defender of the truth, and it was a monothe-

istic mystery religion prevalent in the Roman empire before the acceptance of Christianity in the fourth century.

Preliminary researches show the cemetery dates back to the time of the Parthian Empire (247 BC - 224 CE), which once stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran. ▶Page 6

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Interview



Trump delivered what evangelical political right expected him to do: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A professor of political science from the University of South Alabama says that Trump could content the religious and evangelical political right by putting his imprimatur on the country's legal system.

"Trump's ability to put his imprimatur on the country's legal system, especially in reshaping the Supreme Court, will have the most lasting impact on American politics and society for decades to come," Nader Entessar tells the Tehran Times.

Last week's testimony at congressional hearings on the Jan. 6 Capitol assault portrayed an enraged Trump throwing food against a White House wall, voicing support for threats against his vice president, and dismissing the news that some of his supporters had come armed with rifles.

Everyone has a point about recent hearings and their potential consequences. Some believe that Trump is being damaged during the hearings while others say Trump's supporters, who are mostly evangelical and political right, have not been impressed by anything that has been divulged in the current hearings.

"In other words, Trump delivered what the religious and evangelical political right expected him to do," Entessar argues. ▶Page 5

Golden Pen Awards held without winners for Adult Story, Research

TEHRAN - Iran Pen Association organized the 20th edition of its annual Golden Pen Awards on Tuesday evening while no books were winners in the categories of Adult Story and Review and Research.

In the Adult Story section, "Faces of Silence" by Mohammad Qaemkhani was granted an honorable mention, but no work could satisfy the jury in the Review and Research category.

"Faces of Silence" centers on the differences arising from land, books and race in the history of Judaism.

The Golden Pen for best adult poetry was shared by "The Apostate" by Mehdi Jahandar and "The Very First Wheat" by Abbas Baqeri.

Poems in "The Apostate" voice criticism at people of modern society, which have forgotten their egos. The poet calls on them to do something for a change. ▶Page 8

Borrell and Amir Abdollahian hold talks, first since Doha talks

Iran FM says ‘agreement possible only based on mutual understanding and interests’

TEHRAN – European Union foreign policy chief announced on Tuesday that he had talked again with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian about the need to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The telephone call late on Tuesday between the two chief diplomats comes after Borrell made a visit to Tehran on June 25, and Iran and the United States held indirect talks in Doha, Qatar, on June 28-29. The talks in Doha, which took place after a four-months pause, were mediated by Borrell's deputy Enrique Mora.

“Spoke again with Iranian Foreign Minister @Amirabdollahian,” Borrell tweeted.

Borrell said he had told the Iranian foreign minister that it is now the time to decide to finalize an agreement to put the JCPOA on the right track. He added it is still possible to restore the agreement but it may be difficult to do so if more time passes.

“If we want to conclude an agreement, decisions are needed now. This is still possible, but the political space to revive the #JCPOA may narrow soon,” Borrell said.

Writing on his Twitter account, Amir Abdollahian also said, “Had a call with @

JosepBorrellF earlier tonight.”

In his tweet the foreign minister said, “Agreement is possible only based on mutual understanding & interests.”

He reiterated Tehran's long held position for a durable agreement, saying, “We remain ready to negotiate a strong & durable agreement.”

Amir Abdollahian went on to say that Washington must decide whether it wants a revival of the JCPOA or keep insisting on its demands, saying these two cannot go together.

“US must decide if it wants a deal or insists on sticking to its unilateral demands. Mutually exclusive.”

Amir Abdollahian has been insisting that Iran is sincerely seeking a durable and sustainable agreement provided that the U.S. adopts a “realistic” approach and lifts sanctions on Iran in a verifiable way.

Contrary to the Westerners' interpretation of the Doha talks, Iran has said the talks were positive.

One day after the Doha talks, Iranian ambassador to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi said, “The ball is in U.S. court and if the U.S. acts realistically and shows its serious intention to implement its obligations, the agreement is not out of reach.”

President stresses seizing trade opportunities with neighbors



TEHRAN— Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi reiterates the need to seize the trade opportunity with regional countries, referring to his recent meetings with counterparts on the sidelines of the summit of the Caspian Sea littoral states in Turkmenistan.

Speaking at the cabinet session on Wednesday, he said, “The agriculture ministry is one of the sections that can become more active in the field of exchanges of such products due to the context and capacity of production of agricultural products in neighboring countries.”

Raisi also called for using the opportunity to use credits as well as domestic and foreign funds for investment in the country, develop industry and implement joint projects with other countries, including the implementation of the Rasht-Astara railway and its continuation through the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It is necessary that foreign ministry and

other related institutions follow up the implementation of agreements, the president emphasized.

Referring to the signing of the 7-billion-dollar memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the development of the Azadegan Oil Field, Raisi called it one of the important examples of relying on domestic capacity and direct the funds and liquidity to the production sector.

“If liquidity is used for the growth of production, its growth will not be a cause for concern. It is wandering liquidity that causes inflation and economic disturbances in the country,” he underlined.

The president concluded by saying that with the signing of this memorandum, which is an important step in the government's efforts to increase investment in the prosperity of production, large economic companies have become active as the driving force of the country's economy, and people will witness the results of these actions in the near future.

Iran backs Lebanon’s political process: senior adviser

TEHRAN – Iran supports the improving political situation in Lebanon, according to Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior adviser to the Iranian foreign minister on special political affairs.

Khaji made the comments at a meeting with Joanna Veronica, the UN Special Coordinator in Lebanon on Tuesday.

Khaji also expressed Tehran's support for UN efforts to resolve Lebanon's political and economic issues.

The two officials spoke on the most recent events in Syria and Lebanon during their meetings in the Iranian capital.

They also discussed the UN's activities in Lebanon and the problem of Syrian refugees there.

The representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry also pointed to the frequent Zionist regime's onslaughts against Syria and violation of Lebanese airspace in these strikes, stressing the necessity for a firm response from the UN and the international community to such growing acts of aggression.

Khaji also urged the UN to take action to better the circumstances of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and other nations and to secure their return to their country of origin.

Iran calls on UN to hold Israel accountable for kidnapping Iranian diplomats

TEHRAN— In a statement issued on Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry recalled the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats by the Israeli regime on July 5, 1982.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran expects all rights organizations and the UN to take required measures by using appropriate mechanisms to force the Zionist regime into cooperating to the full in order to determine the fate of the dear diplomats,” the Foreign Ministry said.

The four diplomats were abducted by the Israeli regime's agents in Lebanon's border with the Occupied Palestine.

Below is the full statement of the Foreign Ministry:

The event that happened on July 5th, the anniversary of the abduction of 4 Iranian diplomats, symbolizes the gross violation of all the provisions of the Vienna Convention (1961) known as diplomatic rights and immunity that are reserved for all diplomats.

Forty years ago, in 1982, four Iranian diplomats named Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi, Ahmad Motevaselian, Kazem Akhavan and Taghi Rastegar Moghaddam were kidnapped by the mercenaries of the Zionist regime in an area in Lebanon that was under the Israeli occupation back then.



The Islamic Republic of Iran always holds the Zionist regime and its backers responsible politically and legally for the kidnapping and for that act of terrorism.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has made relentless efforts in this regard and has pursued all legal channels that made the then UN secretary general to declare readiness for cooperation in 2008, but unfortunately, the international community and rights groups have failed to cooperate with Iran appropriately to find out what happened to the Iranian diplomats. The Zionist regime,

which is not bound by any international law or humanitarian laws, has always dodged its responsibility in this respect amid the international silence toward the regime's crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects all rights organizations and the UN to take required measures by using appropriate mechanisms to force the Zionist regime into cooperating to the full in order to determine the fate of the dear diplomats and pave the way for the punishment of the perpetrators of the crime and the violators of the diplomatic rights.

While appreciating the efforts of the Republic of Lebanon to determine the fate of the abducted Iranian diplomats, the Islamic Republic stresses the need for the formation of a fact-finding committee by the two sides and in cooperation with international bodies.

On the 40th anniversary of the abduction of the 4 Iranian diplomats by the mercenaries of the Zionist regime in Lebanon, the Foreign Ministry commemorates the memory of these dear diplomats and sympathizes with their honorable families. The Foreign Ministry also hereby declares that it will continue its efforts to determine the fate of the kidnapped diplomats and is diligently pursuing the matter.

Washington has not assured Iran on economic guarantees: Iran FM

Amir Abdollahian says Iran has made no excessive demands in nuclear talks

From page 1 ► of regional dialogue and cooperation and has taken effective steps in strengthening regional dialogues. This path will continue to be followed by friends and brothers in Qatar and other countries in the region,” the foreign minister stated.

‘Tehran firm to reach a good, strong and stable agreement’

Regarding the negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Amir Abdollahian reiterated that Tehran is determined to reach “a good, strong and stable agreement.”

“Contrary to the U.S. and Western media allegations, we do not have any extravagant demands. Our demands are completely within the framework of the 2015 (nuclear) agreement. If in some area the American side feels that it is a non-JCPOA issue, they should come and tell us. We have emphasized to the American side during the talks that the negotiations are based on what happened in the Vienna talks in the past months.”

According to the foreign minister, the Western parties have repeatedly announced that they will eliminate everything that hinders Iran's economic benefit from the JCPOA.

Amir Abdollahian continued by noting that in the recent talks in Doha, one of the main issues Tehran focused on was the issue of effective guarantees from the U.S. that may affect Iran's full economic benefit from the JCPOA.

The talks in Doha were held on January 28-29. The talks were mediated by European Union coordinator Enrique Mora.

“Therefore, our demand is not excessive, but in the way of obtaining guarantees, the United States must commit that the Islamic Republic of Iran will enjoy the full benefits of the 2015 agreement,” the foreign minister explained.

Amir Abdollahian noted that this is something that Washington has not been able to assure Tehran about its realization.

“I emphasize once again that we have goodwill, we seek logical negotiations and we are serious in this regard,” Iran's top diplomat reiterated.

Qatar FM thanks Iran for trusting Doha

For his part, the Qatari top diplomat said, “It is important that all parties and partners in neighboring countries make constructive

efforts for the success of the nuclear talks and for launching regional dialogues.”

Al Thani also thanked Iran for its trust in Qatar.

He continued, “We always try to support these talks in order to reach an agreement that will eliminate the concerns of all parties and provide the ground for all parties to return to their commitments.”

Qatar's foreign minister also stressed his support for regional dialogue.

“The dialogues held between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries in this framework can have positive results for us. The flourishing relations between the countries of the region can benefit the people of our nations,” he concluded.

Al Thani meets top security chief

Later in the day, Qatar's foreign minister met Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Admiral Ali Shamkhani.

In the meeting, Shamkhani elaborated on Iran's foreign policy and the pivotal role of neighbors in Tehran's foreign relations, saying, “Iran's principled policy towards its neighbors is the development of comprehensive and strategic relations, along with good neighborliness.”

The security chief also described terrorism and Zionism as two main sources of insecurity in the region and said any coalition, even non-security and non-military alliance with the Israeli regime will threaten the stability and security of the region.

Stating that Iran's behavior in the region has shown that the Tehran has always been interested in collective security and maintaining the territorial integrity of countries as an unwavering strategy, Shamkhani noted, “Condemning the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam and supporting Qatar in confronting extravagance and coercion of some countries in the region are clear examples of such a strategy.”

The SNSC chief also mentioned Iran's stance in the JCPOA revival negotiations as an approach that could result in reaching a

“strong, stable and reliable agreement”.

He added, “The oppressive sanctions against Iran should be removed in a way that all countries can easily invest in Iran while maintaining their long-term interests.”

He went on to say that Iran started a new round of negotiations in Vienna with the aim of reaching an agreement, and will adhere to diplomacy until the realization of its legal rights, as it did in the past.

Shamkhani also wished success for Qatar that is going to host the 2022 World Cup tournament and once again announced the readiness of Iran for comprehensive cooperation in this regard.

Shamkhani says, “The oppressive sanctions against Iran should be removed in a way that all countries can easily invest in Iran while maintaining their long-term interests.”

For his part, Al Thani emphasized the necessity of continuing regional dialogues to remove some artificial barriers and accelerate bilateral and multilateral relations between countries.

Pointing to Doha's strong support for the negotiations to lift sanctions on Iran, Qatar's top diplomat suggested, “All parties should return to an agreement as soon as possible by accepting the commitments mentioned in the JCPOA.”

Qatar's foreign minister stated that the main need of the region is durable stability and all-round cooperation for the well-being and comfort of nations. “Reaching an agreement in the nuclear negotiations will definitely contribute to stability in the region.”

The first round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States in Doha was held on June 28-29. It was mediated by Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator.

During a phone call on June 29 with Amir Abdollahian, Al Thani hailed the first round of talks as “constructive and forward-looking,” according to the Iranian foreign ministry readout of the phone call.

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

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

Belgium takes first step for releasing Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN — The Belgian parliament adopted the first step toward ratifying a pact with Iran on Wednesday, that could allow an Iranian convicted in Belgium to be returned to Tehran.

The deal clears the way for the release of Assadollah Assadi, an Iranian who was wrongfully convicted in Belgian courts and sentenced to 20 years in prison.



Belgian Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne defended the deal to Belgian MPs on Tuesday, stating that

“human lives are at risk.”

This week, Belgian media revealed that a Belgian national had been imprisoned in Iran since February.

The accord may also open the path for a future political agreement with other Europeans imprisoned in Iran.

Despite initial reservations from MPs from the governing

coalition, the parliament's foreign affairs committee voted in favor of the treaty on Wednesday, clearing the path for its passage by the whole house next week.

The proposed pact has been criticized in the United States. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bob Menendez, advised Belgium not to give Assadi immunity.

Iran ready to forge ahead with talks

TEHRAN – Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman visted Tehran on Wednesday amid growing U.S. diplomatic pressure on Iran to sign a deal that would not fully serve its long-term interests.

The visit came after Sheikh Mohammad held a phone conversation with his American counterpart Tony Blinken in which the two sides discussed the situation around the talks over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In Tehran, the foreign ministers of both Iran and Qatar remarked about the latest situation around the JCPOA. Sheikh Mohammad said it is important that constructive efforts be made to conclude the JCPOA. He expressed support for any negotiations aimed at reaching a fair agreement that addresses the concerns of all parties.

On the other hand, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, speaking at a joint presser with Sheikh Mohammad, said Iran is determined to reach a “good, strong, and lasting” agreement.

He noted that unlike what America claims in the media, Iran did not pursue any excessive demands. “Our demands are completely within the framework



of the 2015 deal,” he said. He indicated that Iran will reject anything that will prevent Iran from reaping economic benefits from the deal.

Iran and the U.S. recently held indirect talks in Doha mediated by the European Union. After the Doha talks, the U.S. accused Iran of pursuing demands beyond the JCPOA. Rob Malley, the U.S. lead negotiator, said the Doha talks were a “wasted occasion.”

“The European Union, in its role as coordinator, wanted to try one more effort, at least one more effort, and so they invited both delegations to meet

with them in Doha in the hope that the Iranians would show something, some willingness to get to yes. But they seem, at this point, not capable of providing an answer. And so it was a little bit of a – well, more than a little bit of a wasted occasion, I’d say,” He told NPR. “They have and, including in Doha, added demands that I think anyone looking at this would be viewed as having nothing to do with the nuclear deal.”

Amir Abdollahian has rejected that, saying that Iran focused in Doha on the guarantees that the U.S. should provide. “In the recent talks

in Doha, one of the main issues we focused on is the issue of effective guarantees from the U.S. in the field of anything that would affect Iran’s full economic benefit from the JCPOA,” the Iranian foreign minister said. “Therefore, our demand is not excessive, but in the way of obtaining guarantees, the United States must commit that the Islamic Republic of Iran will enjoy the full benefits of the 2015 agreement.”

The U.S., however, does not seem ready to meet the Iranian demands. Instead, they have resorted to the media blame game and diplomatic pressure. Over the past few days, they seemingly pushed a number of foreign officials to press Iran on taking the deal on the table now. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Oman’s Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, and the Qatari foreign minister all have spoken with Iran about the nuclear deal. But Iran’s response was clear: The U.S. needs to provide credible guarantees that it will respect the deal and fulfill its commitments. So far, Iran has not received such guarantees and the conclusion of the nuclear talks depends on the United States. Iran is ready to continue talks until the U.S. makes a decision in that regard.

Iran supports stability in Uzbekistan

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has announced Tehran’s support for stability and security in Uzbekistan and described disrupting unity of Uzbekistan as “unacceptable”

Amir Abdollahian made the comments in a phone conversation with Uzbekistan’s Acting Foreign Minister Vladimir Imamovich Norov on Tuesday evening in which the two sides exchanged views on the most significant issues on the agenda of the two countries.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran supports stability and security in Uzbekistan and considers unacceptable taking away the security of Uzbekistan and disrupting its unity,” the top Iranian diplomat said, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

He also pointed to both sides’ determination and hard work to strengthen relations, saying the ties

are on the rise.

The chief diplomat also referred to the significant role of mutual visits by high-ranking officials of the two countries in enhancement of ties, announcing a plan by Iran’s parliament speaker to visit Uzbekistan in the near future.

In turn, Norov praised the principled policies adopted by Iran on the latest developments in Uzbekistan and its support for his country’s unity.

Eighteen people were killed and 243 wounded during unrest in Uzbekistan’s autonomous province of Karakalpakstan which broke out last week over plans to curtail its autonomy, Uzbek authorities said on Monday, Swiss Info reported.

Security forces detained 516 people while dispersing the protesters last Friday but have now released many of them, the national guard press office told a briefing.

“The process of amending the Constitution has started and President Mirziyoyev has talked to the people of Uzbekistan on this issue,” he said.

The Uzbek official described as positive the process of the enhancement of cooperation between the two states at different bilateral, regional and international levels, expressing hope that the Iranian parliament chief’s future visit to his country will pave the way for expansion of ties.

Earlier, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, reacted to unrest taking place in Uzbekistan. “The Islamic Republic of Iran closely following the trend of developments and recent unrest in a part of the Republic of Uzbekistan,” Kanaani said in statement.

He said these developments are an internal issue of Uzbekistan and expressed hope that Uzbekistan would solve this issue.

Iran, Egypt agree to develop ties: report

TEHRAN – Iran and Egypt have held a high-level meeting in recent days and have agreed to boost their relations, according to a Qatari-owned newspaper.

Citing Egyptian diplomatic sources, Al Araby Al Jadeed said new developments have taken place in the relations between Tehran and Cairo ahead of a mid-July visit by U.S. President Joe Biden to the region. “A high-level meeting, which took place during the recent visit of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to the Sultanate of Oman early last week, brought together Egyptian and Iranian officials,” the sources told Al Araby Al Jadeed. They added that the meeting was attended by a high-ranking figure from the delegation accompanying the Egyptian president with Omani coordination.

The sources indicated that the meeting “was of a security nature in general, and touched upon the situation in the Gaza Strip and Syria,” adding that “there were many points of agreement between the two parties, and that the coming period may witness direct coordination between Cairo and Tehran on issues and matters related to the Strip.”

According to the sources, “during

the meeting, an agreement was reached on joint coordination in international forums, as long as that was possible, in light of the desire of Cairo and Tehran to reach a good level of relations, provided that they would gradually improve, according to the developments of events in the region.”

In his visit to Oman, the Egyptian president was accompanied by Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Chief of General Intelligence Abbas Kamel, Minister of Planning Hala Saeed, and a number of other officials.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian had denied the holding of direct meetings with the Egyptian government, although he expressed hope for developing relations between the two countries. Amir Abdollahian said in remarks to state TV earlier this week, “We have not yet had direct negotiations with the Egyptian side. Egypt is an important country in the Islamic world and the world, and we believe that expanding relations between Iran and Cairo is in the interest of the two peoples.”

He also said in separate remarks that that there are “ongoing efforts

to restore relations between Tehran and Cairo within the framework of cooperation between two Islamic countries.”

He added that “there is an office for representing interests in each of the two countries, which shows the fact that Egypt is an important country in the Islamic world, and we consider developing relations with it to serve the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the Islamic world and the countries of the region.”

The Egyptian sources said that Egypt is “always keen not to enter into hostile relations with any regional and international party, as long as there is no need for that, and that this principle is the main motive for not entering into regional alliances.”

They pointed out that the meeting “included an Egyptian clarification regarding the Negeve guidance document that was recently signed in Manama, during which the United States, Israel and four Arab countries agreed to enhance cooperation and hold annual meetings of foreign ministers, two weeks before U.S. President Joe Biden’s visit to the Middle East [West Asia].”

The sources said that “the Egyptian clarifications included an explanation

solution, which includes a complete removal of the siege of the Yemeni people.

The UN envoy, for his part, expressed satisfaction with Iran’s constructive efforts toward the resolution of the Yemen crisis, calling for the continuation of Tehran’s cooperation for the establishment of peace in Yemen.

Haraldstad also exchanged views with the senior advisor to Iranian foreign minister for political affairs over the latest political and humanitarian situation in Syria.

In the conversation, the two sides discussed the latest developments and efforts made within the framework of the humanitarian conditions in Syria. They also underlined the need for the international

community to pay more attention to the issue and make more efforts in this regard.

Also, Khaji met Wednesday with Joanna Wronecka, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, in Tehran. In this meeting, the latest developments in Lebanon and Syria were discussed and opinions were exchanged, state news agency IRNA reported.

While welcoming the successful holding of parliamentary elections in Lebanon, Khaji announced, “The Islamic Republic of Iran will support the continuation of the progress of the political process in Lebanon and the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the political and economic problems of this country.”

Iran volleyball coach Ataei thrilled with win over Poland

From Page 1 ▶ Nikola Grbic, head coach of the Polish national team, also praised Iran’s performance.

“I think Iran played a great match. Sometimes it happens that a team who have lower rating and have not qualified for the next round when they play against a powerful team in a packed venue it gives them a great motivation to succeed,” Grbic said.

“This match taught me that I need to know my players better and work on some weak points more. When your opponents play good volleyball, we must also play well against them,” added the 48-year-old coach.

The third week of the 2022 VNL is time for the participants to earn a place alongside hosts Italy at the men’s Finals to be held in Bologna from July 20 through 24.

Iran learn fate at 2022 FIVB Volleyball World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their fate at the new-look FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship in Poland and Slovenia.

Iran have been drawn in Pool F along with Argentina, the Netherlands and Egypt.

The competition will be held Poland and Slovenia from August 26 to September 11.

It was originally planned to be held in Russia, however, Russia was stripped of organization rights after Ukraine’s invasion.

Iran will play Argentina on August 27 and meet Egypt and the Netherlands on August 29 and 31, respectively.

The competition formula will see the 24 competing teams spread across six pools of four, playing in a single round-robin format.

The top two nations in each pool and the four best third-placed teams will qualify for the elimination round – making it much simpler for fans across the globe to keep track of the action.

Iran to participate at Kuwait International Boxing Championships

TEHRAN – The Kuwait Boxing Federation will stage its first-ever international tournament in the capital city on July 20 to 26.

Known as the Kuwait International Boxing Championships, the event is open to elite male boxers born between 1982 and 2003.

All participating teams are allowed to send one representative in each of the 13 official weight categories.

The Iranian Boxing Federation is going to send the National Team to the tournament.

Iran to take part at Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy

TEHRAN – Iran rugby national team will participate at the 2022 Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy.

The team started the preparation for the competition on Tuesday in Kerman.

The tournament will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 6-7.

The Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy is a sub-regional competition that allows all 34 Asia Rugby members unions an opportunity to participate in their respective sub-regions for both men and women delivering on Asia Rugby’s pledge of Equality.

Iran U20 volleyball coach pleased with win over Kazakhstan

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s U20 volleyball team head coach Padideh Boloorzadeh is pleased with her team’s performance in front of the home crowd in the Kazakh capital.

Iran savored their first victory in Pool A of the Preliminary Round of the 21st Asian Women’s U20 Volleyball Championship with a 3-0 match (25-20, 25-19, 25-21) on home team Kazakhstan on Tuesday evening at NU Sports Centre.



Iran outside hitter Roya Farrokhi topped all scorers in the match, with 20 points from 17 attacks, 2 service winners, and a block. Reyhane Fazeli posted a strong presence at the middle, converting with 6 attacks and 4 blocks and 2 aces.

“We tried to make a good representation of Iran volleyball. We planned everything around in this match against Kazakhstan and fortunately, we delivered with tonight’s victory,” said Boloorzadeh.

Taremi fails to win MVP award

TEHRAN – While Mehdi Taremi lost the chance to receive the 2021/22 I Liga Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, the Portuguese commentator said that the player deserved the title.

The Iranian forward has been nominated for the award but the award went to Darwin Nunez, the Benfica striker.

Sofia Oliveira, the commentator for CNN Portugal reacted to the result, noting that players like “Vitinha,” “Luis Diaz” and Taremi, who is the best striker, are better than Darwin.

Taremi played for 2613 minutes in the top flight team in which he scored 20 goals.

Mehdi Taremi (born on July 18, 1992) is a footballer who plays as a striker for the Portuguese Primeira Liga club Porto and the Iranian national team.

Earlier, the forward was shortlisted for the FIFA Puskas Award 2021.

Santo takes charge of Al Ittihad

TEHRAN – Al Ittihad have appointed Nuno Espirito Santo as head coach until 2024, the Saudi Pro League side announced.

The 48-year-old Portuguese last worked with English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur, leaving the club after 17 matches in charge. Nuno enjoyed success during his four seasons at Wolverhampton Wanderers, guiding them to promotion to the Premier League in 2018 after six years. “It’s an honour for me to join the greatest club in Saudi Arabia, Al Ittihad. See you soon,” Nuno said in a video shared by the club on their social media.

Nuno has also managed Valencia and Porto.

Al Ittihad were pipped to the 2021-22 Saudi Pro League on the final day by Al Hilal SFC.

Advisor to Iran FM meets UN, Norwegian envoys

TEHRAN – Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior advisor to the Iranian foreign minister, held a meeting via video link with new Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, and Hilde Haraldstad, Norway’s special envoy for Syria.

Khaji and Grundberg discussed the latest developments unfolding in Yemen, the ceasefire, and ways to forge cooperation between the parties to the conflict in the country, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The talks are part of the Islamic Republic’s continued consultations over a resolution of the Yemen crisis.

Khaji emphasized Iran’s constant positive role in efforts to achieve a just peace through a political

Petropars begins drilling operation in Belal gas field



From page 1 ► The drilling operation is going to include 700 meters of coring in the horizons of Kangan, Dalan, Zakin, and Faraghan as well as carrying out seven drill stem tests (DST); so, this well is considered one of the most comprehensive descriptive wells that have been drilled so far in the country's oil and gas fields, the official said.

This well is being drilled in order to determine the extent of the South Pars gas field expansion and to evaluate the potential capacity of the reservoir in the Zakin and Faraghan horizons.

Petropars finalized a \$440m deal with POGC, a subsidiary of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for developing the Belal gas field in September 2019.

The buyback contract, which was to be enclosed in the integrated and master

development plan of South Pars phases 11 to 24, was aimed at a daily production of 500 million cubic feet (an equivalent of 14 million cubic meters) per day of rich gas in 34 months, however, the contract was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial hardship created by the U.S. sanctions.

Based on the contract, POGC serves as the employer of the contract and carries out reservoir studies, and arranges the sideline licensing rounds for the purposes of the project. Accordingly, the company is required to tap the capabilities of local manufacturers and contractors.

For its part, Petropars as the contractor of the project is required to drill eight wells in the offshore field, launch wellhead jackets and build and install a topside with 500 million cubic feet per day of gas production capacity as well as a seabed pipeline with an estimated length of 20 kilometers.

The gas produced in this field will be processed at the onshore refinery of South Pars Phase 12.

Belal Gas Field is located east of South Pars in the Persian Gulf and 90 km southwest of Lavan Island.



shares of automakers are offered, it can be an excuse for the market to return to its upward trend.”

Overall, at the moment there is no expectation for the market to fall or rise. If nothing changes, the market will grow over time, he said.

Another market analyst believes that the stock market has the potential to grow despite the distrust created in the market as a result of some bad decisions.

Emphasizing that there is potential for growth in the market, Hassan Kazemzadeh told ISNA on June 5: “Given this potential, the market will grow. Of course, there are ups and downs, but no matter how much distrust there is, the changes of major economic factors will affect the market, but this effect takes place gradually and over time.”

According to the analyst, uncertainty about monitoring policies, especially interference in valuing the shares of companies, imposition of various duties, imposing corporate expenses such as taxes and export duties, etc., has caused shareholders to be pessimistic about the market.

“Although there is a 30 to 40 percent growth potential in the market, even professionals are disappointed,” he regretted.

Regarding the situation of the capital market in the second half of the year, Kazemzadeh said: “According to the fundamental analysis, many stocks that are profitable, regardless of whether their profit margins or profitability are high or low, have the potential to reach their price ceiling of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021). If this happens, the market index will also pass the ceiling of that year.”

The MOU was signed by TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak and a director from IOFS in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, the TPO portal reported on Wednesday.

According to this MOU, the two sides will exchange information on the trade of agricultural and food products through commercial corridors operating under the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Facilitating the trade of agricultural and

TEHRAN – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the country's major exploration and production companies, public and private banks, and financial institutions for the development of Azadegan oil field, Oil Minister Javad Oji announced.

Based on the MOU which was signed on Tuesday by NIOC Head Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr and managers of the banks and domestic exploration and production companies, seven billion dollars will be invested in the field's development project to increase its production capacity to 570,000 barrels per day, Shana reported.

“With an investment of nearly seven billion dollars, the production capacity of this field will reach 220,000 barrels per day in the second year of its development, and will reach 570,000 barrels of oil per day in the next seven years,” Oji told the national TV on Tuesday evening.

Based on the MOU, all the signatories of the document will be shareholders in the project and a part of the shares of the project will also be offered at the stock market.

As announced by NIOC, the development plan of the joint

NIOC attracts \$7b for developing Azadegan oil field



Oil Minister Javad Oji

field includes the drilling of more than 420 production and injection wells, the construction of five manifolds, and the installation of 315,000 to 320,000 kilometers of pipelines which all will be carried out by domestic companies and contractors.

According to Oji, the field is currently producing 190,000 barrels of oil per day.

“During the 20-year operation period of Azadegan field, considering the base price of oil to

be \$80 per barrel on average, the field will generate more than \$115 billion in revenue for the country and create employment for 24,000 people,” the minister said.

Azadegan is one of the five major oilfields Iran shares with Iraq in the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, known as the West Karoun fields.

The field's reservoir is estimated to contain 32 billion barrels of oil, and its development has so far been pursued in two sections,

Average housing price stands at \$1,489 per sq.m. in Tehran city: SCI

TEHRAN- The Statistical Center of Iran put the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran city at 414 million rials (about \$1,489) in the third Iranian calendar month Khordad (ended on June 21).

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had previously put the figure at 394.14 million rials (about \$1,417) in the mentioned month, which was 8.4 percent higher than the figure in the second month.

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

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

Although, in early May, the chairman of Real

Estate Agencies Union said, “This year is the year of lower housing prices; this condition will continue in the country for the next two years, and we will see a continuous decrease in housing prices”.

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

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



shortage and implementation of National Housing Movement.”

The market will react positively to the increase in supply, and the completion of the government plans including Mehr Housing and National Housing will control the uncontrolled growth of housing prices, he further predicted.

Quarterly export from Bushehr province doubled yr/yr

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

Ali Soleymani, the director-general of the customs department of Busher city (center of the province), said that over 7.4 million tons of products worth over \$4 billion were exported from Bushehr province in the said three-month period, indicating also 20 percent growth in terms of weight.

He said the main exported goods include petrochemical products, minerals, fisheries and vegetables, which have been exported to China, United Arab Emirates, India, South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Mozambique, Turkey, Ivory Coast and Pakistan.

The official further announced that 161,000 tons of commodities worth over \$790 million were imported to the province in the first quarter of the present year, showing 201 percent growth in terms of value, and 40 percent rise in terms of weight, as compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

He named rice, nuclear power plant parts, fabrics, and rubber as the main imported items, and China, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Thailand, India, Philippines, Japan, and Turkey as the sources of imports.



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

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

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

He named petrochemical products, gas condensate, minerals, fisheries, and vegetables as the main exported items, and China, United Arab Emirates, India, Pakistan, Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil,

Mozambique and Qatar as the major export destinations of the province's products in the past year.

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

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

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

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

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

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$4.214 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq

the Southern Azadegan and the Northern Azadegan.

Back in May, Khojasteh-Mehr had announced that his company was going to award the development of Azadegan oil field, including the South and North blocks, to a consortium of domestic companies.

“Following the NIOC's comprehensive programs for the development of joint fields and maximum use of the capabilities of Iranian companies, the second phase of North Azadegan field's development project and the ongoing project of South Azadegan will be awarded to a consortium comprised of exploration and production companies under a \$7.5 billion contract,” the NIOC head said on May 15.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022), Khojasteh-Mehr said: “The above-mentioned companies will form a single firm to develop the field and all of them will have equal shares under the mother company.”

“So, the final contract is not an exclusive deal and we do not intend to award the field to just one or two companies, but it will be awarded to all of them,” he added.

TPO inks co-op MOU with IOFS

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) for economic cooperation in the field of agriculture and food products.



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (R) and a director from IOFS sign MOU documents

food products between Iran and the OIC member countries, ensuring sustainable food security and implementing business and investment plans, and developing multilateral cooperation among the members of the mentioned organization are also among the subjects covered in the MOU.

Also, the two sides emphasized cooperation in holding exhibitions, as well as the use of Islamic financial instruments to support business development.

Based in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, the Islamic Organization for Food Security is a food and agriculture organization and one of the eight specialized institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation focused on the development of agriculture and rural development with primary focus on widespread scarcity of food and food security of the member states. Its charter is formally signed by the 36 member states out of 57 as of 2022. The associated member states work in collaboration with IOFS.

From page 1 ► During Wednesday's parliamentary session (or Prime Ministers Questions), the former health minister, now sitting in the backbenches as an MP - Sajid Javid - rebuked the cabinet ministers who have not resigned saying "not doing something is an active decision."

Javid also said that he has "concluded that the problem starts at the top and I believe that is not going to change and that means that it is for those of us in a position who have a responsibility to make that change."

But Javid and Sunak took their time in quitting. They should have resigned much earlier than the latest scandal. Both politicians see themselves as possible replacements for Johnson and remaining in their posts would have affected that opportunity.

Nevertheless, the damage in Downing Street has already been done PR wise and the embarrassment of a country that ventures into military adventurism on the other side of the world with it's partner on the other side of the pond the U.S., to allegedly spread democracy via the bullet while it's leader back home has become a laughing stock and the new Donald Trump of the UK.

There is also a government that has basically collapsed as every minister who quit had plans for the future and the mass changes or replacements mean all those policies have gone to the dustbin with the new appointees having to start from scratch during a crisis in literally every layer of British society.

Where is the governance? Every sector is on strike or planning some form of industrial action. Who is taking the responsible leaders to take the country out of the multiple crises the public are suffering from.

The country has a Prime Minister who doesn't have the support of his party let alone the public who are both angry and dismayed. While he maintained the confidence of Tory MPs by a slim margin in



British government in crisis

a recent confidence vote, it would only take some 32 MPs to switch sides at some point in the not-so-distant future for his premiership to be over.

Taking a quick glance at the British newspapers who are on friendly terms with the Conservative party or close allies with the Tories, it's evident the majority of the broadsheets and tabloids have decided to turn their backs on the man sitting in Downing Street amid rising public anger.

The Times says "Game Over" noting that "just two weeks ago, the Conservatives suffered historic by-election defeats in two previously solid seats. That highlighted the depth of hostility to Mr Johnson in very different parts of the country,"

The Daily Mail says it has been "urging loyal Tories to stand by their leader in these difficult times and allow him to get on with the job of running the country. A backbench coup failed and despite a trickle of low-level resignations, the party could have rediscovered its common cause and sense of purpose. Yesterday, however, the dam burst."

The Sun says "cabinet resignations make his position dicey to put it mildly. Unless he delivers for the British people in short order it will be utterly untenable."

The Daily Telegraph, possibly the closest paper to the Conservative party, had a columnist writing "finally, and dramatically, it is all falling apart. After waiting for months to see if any senior member of the Cabinet had a backbone, we now find that there are at least two vertebrates."

The Daily Express still maintains some optimism but said "those who still respect his genius for campaigning but are dismayed by mistakes and gaffes will now watch the PM intently for evidence he can unite the party and rapidly change Britain for the better."

The end looks like it's near for the current UK Premier, polls show his popularity is low and the public saga is dragging out longer than perhaps expected but the more he clings to power the more this party is going to lose in the next General election.

And that's according to an increasing number of Tory MPs

who have lost all confidence in their own party leader and to be frank, as one Tory member alluded to, the Johnson leadership is turning the UK into some kind of Banana Republic.

The ending may get ugly.

The UK Housing Secretary Michael Gove has indicated he's unhappy with Boris Johnson remaining in his post, British media reported. That is said to have come following reports he asked the prime minister to resign on Wednesday morning. The claims have not been denied by a spokesman for the Secretary who has his eyes on the top government position.

Gove has stuck with Johnson throughout all this mess and is not exactly the most likable person in the country. That provides an indication of just how low the British premier has sunk.

Just a quick reminder of the more notable stories and scandals that damaged Johnson's reputation.

The PM and Downing Street staff had gatherings and parties when the country was under lockdown restrictions.

The Conservative party was fined £17,800 by the Electoral Commission, which found the Tories had improperly declared donations towards the refurbishment of Johnson's Downing Street flat.

Johnson and Sunak were fined for attending the prime minister's birthday party in Downing Street in June 2020, as part of a Metropolitan Police probe into alleged parties at the heart of the government during the pandemic. The first sitting PM to break the law.

The prime minister's authority was damaged by a confidence vote that saw 41 percent of his MPs try to oust him.

Defeat in two crunch by-elections and the subsequent surprise resignation of the Conservative party co-chairman, Oliver Dowden, pitched Johnson's leadership into a fresh crisis.

Don't be surprised if another no-confidence vote is held or Johnson decides to call it quits before he is forced to pack his bags.

Energy, climate, pension reform: French PM sets out Macron's second-term agenda in first policy speech

In her first address to parliament, French Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne said the country must prepare for Russian gas cuts. She also told MPs that French politicians have forgotten the virtue of compromise and that they "must give the word its meaning back" after President Emmanuel Macron's centrist bloc lost its majority in June's legislative elections.

Amid vociferous opposition to her right and left, Borne warned other parties that "disorder and instability aren't options".

As the head of a minority government, Borne said that – in giving France a hung parliament in last month's polls – the French people were asking the country's politicians to "do things differently". The prime minister said the government she and Macron lead is "responding to that demand".

The PM is engaging in one of French politics' most important rituals, the "general political declaration" that kicks off the parliamentary session, which is being scrutinised closely given her weak position at the head of a minority government.

When it came to setting out the government's priorities for Macron's second term, the headline announcement was that France will completely nationalise its debt-laden energy utility EDF, of which the state already owns 84 percent.

"We must have full control over our electricity production and performance," Borne said in her first major speech to France's parliament. "We must ensure our sovereignty in the face of the consequences of the war (in Ukraine) and the colossal challenges to come. [...] That's why I confirm to you the state's intention to own 100% of EDF's capital."

EDF manages France's big fleet of nuclear reactors, which are facing an array of technical problems.

Otherwise Borne adopted her boss's famous en même temps ("at the same time") approach. She promised "radical" action on the transition to a green economy – a big priority for the left. But she also poured cold water on "de-growth", a cherished idea among many French leftists.

The PM said full employment was "within reach", but also said that France must move government spending "towards a balanced state" after public debt ballooned during the coronavirus crisis.

Borne also said that Macron's contentious plans to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 are "not set in stone" but nevertheless "necessary".

'Too risky'

Macron suffered a setback in parliamentary elections last month that saw his allies fall short of a majority by 39 seats.

He and Borne have since failed to tempt opposition parties into a coalition.

"The prime minister is working round the clock," a cabinet minister told AFP this week. "She's meeting everyone, she's calling everyone. She's really committed to listening, so we'll manage."

Without formal allies in the 577-seat national assembly, Borne has decided not to call a confidence vote on her policy speech – something almost all past prime ministers have done after their first appearances in the lower house.

Holding a vote was "too risky" for Borne, who would have been forced to step down if she lost, explained Bruno Cautres, a researcher at the Cevipof political studies unit at Sciences Po university in Paris.

"She made the right decision, but she didn't really have a choice."

But the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) party, one of the big gainers in



June's parliamentary polls, called a censure motion on Wednesday which would also bring Borne down if she loses.

Analysts see it as highly unlikely to pass, with other opposition parties from the far-right National Rally and the rightwing Republicans ruling out backing LFI.

Exhausted?

Borne's immediate priorities are expected to be pushing through laws with wide support such as one to help low-income families cope with the cost-of-living crisis and another to release extra funding for the struggling health service.

Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin was hopeful the government could count on support from the right-wing Republicans party for bills to tackle immigration and crime, saying the cabinet's "hand was outstretched".

"If we put forward bills filled with common sense and with the spirit of compromise we have today, will this outstretched hand be taken by our adversaries?" he told BFM television.

"Nobody would understand" if opposition parties systematically blocked the government, he said.

Without a formal coalition, intense negotiations with opposition parties will be required each time the government wants to pass legislation.

Borne will also be constantly vulnerable to a censure motion called by opponents, making French politics unpredictable and unstable for the foreseeable future.

Only two months since he was re-elected to a historic second term, Macron has diminished capacity to push through reforms, with plans to raise the retirement age to 65 and reform welfare on ice for the moment.

The French media has speculated in recent days about his state of mind, with some reports suggesting he is yet to mentally rebound from the parliamentary setback.

Le Point, a right-wing weekly, said he had lost his "energy, his nerve and his lucidity", while the left-wing l'Obs reported he was suffering from "physical exhaustion".

Rumours that Macron is burned out have frequently surfaced during his five years in office, fed by reports that he survives on a few hours' sleep a night and often texts ministers in the early hours of the morning.

A cabinet reshuffle announced on Tuesday did little to inject new momentum into his government as he failed to attract any new heavy-hitters.

It kept most senior figures in their jobs and brought in only junior new faces with little political experience.

"Emmanuel Macron is no longer attractive," senior rightwing Republicans figure Bruno Retailleau told the CNews channel on Tuesday.

Trump delivered what evangelical political right expected him to do: professor

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

How do you evaluate the January 6th hearing sessions?

The televised hearings have been interesting, especially the session with Cassidy Hutchinson, and aide to Trump's White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. She provided the most damaging evidence against Trump that has been so far televised in the January 6th hearing sessions. However, the January 6th hearings have not generated the kind of enthusiasm that had mesmerized the American public during the Watergate hearings in the 1970s that led to President Nixon's resignation.

Certainly, Trump's supporters have not been swayed by anything that has been divulged in the current hearings, and the Republicans, especially the party's leadership and core supporters, have dismissed both the utility and the legitimacy of the January 6th committee.

Also, this committee has no prosecutorial authority nor can it charge Trump with any federal crimes. That decision rests with the Justice Department and Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Of course, the Justice Department has been conducting its own investigation of the January 6th events, but it has not indicated if it intends to indict Trump. Such a decision will have immense political consequences not just for Trump's future but also for the entire edifice of America's political structure.

While the difference between Trump and his close colleagues like Mike Pence is undeniable, how can his supporters justify or trust him?

Support for authoritarian leaders is not based on reasoned and rational arguments and justification but on blind trust and



emotional feelings. This has certainly been the case from the early years of Trump's political campaign to the present.

Although it is true that in recent months cracks have appeared in Trump's camp and his supporters, former President Donald Trump still has a sizeable base of coherent supporters who have remained very loyal to him and what he stands for.

Assuming that the Justice Department does not pursue criminal charges against Trump (a reasonable likelihood at this time), he will be among the top favorites to capture the Republican nomination for the presidency again if he decides to run for the 2024 White House race.

While many see Trump as an abnormal impulsive personality, do you agree that he was successful in some aspects like economy?

Judging success in Trump's case is in the eyes of the beholder. His avid supporters certainly consider Trump's performance positively and credit him for achieving most, if not all, of his goals in his four years in office.

Trump's ability to put his imprimatur on the country's legal system, especially in

reshaping the Supreme Court, will have the most lasting impact on American politics and society for decades to come. In other words, Trump delivered what the religious and evangelical political right expected him to do.

Do you think America is following the teachings of its founders, given the rate of violence and racism?

The writings and teachings of America's founders have always been open to various interpretations. They laid down a set of broad philosophical principles that they hoped would provide the foundation for establishing a new societal and political order in North America. What is ironic is that in today's America, almost all political constituencies, ranging from conservatives, violent extremists, liberals, and even leftists, invoke these principles to support their views and programs.

How do you see the future of American democracy in light of such a split?

I think procedural democracy with its focus on electoral processes as the basis of democratic legitimacy will endure in the United States. However, substantive or participatory democracy with its focus on equal opportunity for all groups to participate in the political process will face major challenges as sociopolitical fissures in American society intensify. Added to this challenge, is the loss of perceived legitimacy in the country's major political institutions, including the presidency, congress, and the judiciary, in the eyes of an increasing segment of the American populace.

“Support for authoritarian leaders is not based on reasoned and rational arguments and justification but on blind trust and emotional feelings.”

Efforts made to conserve old trees in UNESCO garden



TEHRAN – A team of Iranian experts has finished work to help conserve old trees at the UNESCO-registered Fin Garden in central Iran.

“A budget of 17 billion rials (\$57,000) has been allocated to the preservation project and organizing the green space of the historical garden,” IRNA quoted a local tourism official as saying on Wednesday.

A combination of seasonal winds and dust and the location of the complex near the Kashan-Qom-Isfahan highway cause blockages to plant openings and disrupt the trees' health, Zohreh Hantei said.

As part of the project, one scientific and principled action was to wash old and tall trees, which is necessary every year and on several occasions using water and sometimes organic soap, the official explained.

The history of Fin Garden in its current shape dates back to the time of Shah Abbas

I who was the 5th Safavid king of Iran and reigned from 1588 to 1629. However, some sources say the original premises date far back in time.

Due to the fact that the oasis city of Kashan lies adjacent to the central Iranian desert, water is scarce, however, inside the garden, water superabundantly flows through a series of turquoise-colored pools and fountains.

The elevated cedars inside the garden that are up to 500 years old contribute to the scenic landscape while the profusion of orange trees permeate pleasant fragrance when the trees are in blossom.

Fin Garden together with eight others across the country have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of “The Persian Garden.”

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

The UNESCO website asserts that the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

Jameh Mosque of Golpayegan restoration works begin

TEHRAN – The Jameh Mosque of Golpayegan has undergone some rehabilitation works, Golpayegan's tourism chief has said.

A budget of three billion rials (\$10,000) has been allocated to the project, Mostafa Qanuni said on Wednesday.

“Replacing worn-out materials, strengthening the structure, and repairing the damaged parts are parts of the restoration project,” the official added.

The main structure of the mosque dates back to the Seljuk era (1037-1194), but there were some additions to the mosque during the Qajar era (1789-1925), he noted.

The historical mosque, which stands tall in Isfahan province, was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1933.

The terms “Jameh Mosque”, “Masjed-e Jameh” and “Friday Mosque” are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries



but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Karaj ancient bridge restoration cost estimated at \$160,000

TEHRAN – Restoration of Khatun Bridge, a centuries-old arched monument in Karaj, is expected to cost some \$160,000, an official with Iran's ministry of cultural heritage and tourism said on Wednesday.

“The total estimated cost of restoring the arch bridge... will be about fifty billion rials (about \$160,000),” said Seyyed Hadi Ahmadi Ruini the director of the ministry's office for preservation



and restoration of historic buildings and sites.

The deck of the monument, which is situated in the capital of

Alborz province, partly collapsed in December 2020 reportedly due to severe rainfalls.

Experts say the foundation of the bridge was constructed during the Seljuk era (1037-1194) while its other sections were thoroughly renovated in the time of Safavids (1501-1736).

Arch bridges have been built since ancient times due to the easy accessibility of stone masonry, which is an appropriate material

for sustaining compressive forces. An arch bridge carries loads primarily by compression, which exerts on the foundation both vertical and horizontal forces. Arch foundations must therefore prevent both vertical settling and horizontal sliding. Despite the more complicated foundation design, the structure itself normally requires less material than a beam bridge of the same span.



birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers to name a few.

Oil drilling reveals cemetery with giant urn-like tombs in southwest Iran

From page 1 ► “This type of burial in urns was especially dedicated to babies and young children, since the Neolithic era. But the peak of the use of this burial method can be observed and followed during the Parthian period.”

As mentioned by Feizi, the newly-discovered urn tombs can be compared and contrasted with the ones previously discovered in Shoghab (cemetery) of Bushehr province.

Covering five hectares of land, Shoghab cemetery, which is located on the outskirts of Bushehr, is adjacent to other magnificent sites which date from the Elamite (3200 – 539 BC) and Sassanid (224 CE-651) eras. Previous excavations there have revealed three types of burial, including rectangular tombstones, rectangular pit tombs made of stone, and (giant) urn pits (stretched) in the east-west direction.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Feizi reminded that many researchers believe the southern parts of Khuzestan – and in particular Ahvaz and its surroundings – were once permanent settlements from the Sassanid era onwards.

“The discovery of this new cemetery in Ahvaz well indicates human settlements in the late Parthian period,” the



File photo depicts an archaeologist working beside an urn-like tomb in southern Iran.

archaeologist said.

Concerning the fact that the new discoveries are made during an oil drilling project, Cultural Heritage activist Mojtaba Gahestuni has expressed worry that the site may not be protected.

“Now, a new ancient site has been discovered in the area of an oil company's workshop, and there is a concern that this site will not be explored. This area needs to be explored, saved, preserved, and registered nationally,” ILNA quoted Gahestuni as saying on Tuesday.

Last year, a team of archaeologists discovered a

rare Parthian-era (247 BC – 224 CE) tombstone in an ancient cemetery in northcentral Iran. The discovery was of high importance because it yielded the first-ever engraved tombstone of the Parthian era.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched

from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

Parthian wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.

A cradle of civilization, Iran is well soaked in history and culture, and never disappoints cultural travelers with almost every taste even ones interested in cemetery tourism.

Having nearly all kinds of historical tombs, museums such as tomb towers, and rack-hewn tombs, Iran is heaven for cemetery enthusiasts and grave hunters; individuals who have a passion for and enjoyment of cemeteries, epitaphs, gravestone rubbing, topography, art, and history of famous deaths.

In cemetery tourism, contrary to popular belief, it is you who will be the protagonist of a hot dialogue of past and present during visits to centuries-old tombs or cemeteries instead of listening to a curator of an exhibition!

Yasuj to host national tribal festival

TEHRAN – The national tribal festival of Kuch, dedicated to the ethnic culture is scheduled to be inaugurated in Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, southwest Iran on Sunday, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A major objective of holding this festival is to revive nomads' cultural and spiritual identities and traditions, CHTN quoted Saeid Talebipour as saying on Wednesday.

Having such festivals and developing tourism capacities play a key role in attracting investors and creating jobs for the locals in the tourism field, the official added.

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

Nomads and tribal tourism

Tribe tourism, also known as the ethno-tourism or ethnic tourism, provides the ground for potential sightseers to feel like indigenous people by living with a nomad or rural family or enjoying an independent

stay. However, as the name implies, it's a trip for recreational purposes rather than an expedition for anthropological research.

Experts say this branch of tourism has gained a lot of support and attention in the country over the past couple of years. Many tour operators believe that tribal regions could be deemed as the legacy of human authenticity in their novel cultural and human aspects.

Iran has a culturally-diverse society dominated by a wide range of interethnic relations. Native speakers of Persian (Farsi language) are considered as the predominant ethnic generally of mixed ancestry, and the country has important Turkic, Kurd, and Arab elements in addition to the Lurs, Baloch, Bakhtiari, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, and Jews.

Persians, Kurds, and speakers of other Indo-European languages in Iran are descendants of the Aryan tribes who began migrating from Central Asia into what is now Iran in the second millennium BC.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or two, maybe a lifetime experience. As a traveler, one has



the chance to visit, live, eat, and sleep in a nomadic camp with a real nomad family. Colorful dresses, vast black tents, colored-eyed children with rosy cheeks, modest lifestyle, scenic landscape, and local dishes are probably among the delights of such visits.

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

Many nomads surprise visitors with the dignity in their rough and overworked hands and integrity in their compassionate eyes at first sight. In popular Iranian culture, literature, and public opinion, nomads have always been a proud part of the nation.

Safavid caravanserai undergoes partial restoration



TEHRAN – Hojaib caravanserai, one of Iran's well-preserved roadside inns dating from the Safavid era, is being given a makeover.

Over the past couple of years, the gigantic mudbrick caravanserai has undergone several rounds of restoration to gain its former glory.

The restoration work involves repairing damaged arcades on the southeastern side, leveling the slopes, fixing the drainage gradient of the roofs and landscape, downspouts, and tile bonding under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Situated in Buin-Zahra county, Qazvin province, the caravanserai dates from the Safavid era (1501-1736).

The Islamic Republic has submitted an inclusive dossier on its caravanserais to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The dossier comprises the obligatory data about a selection of 56 caravanserais, which are located in 24 provinces.

Caravanserai or caravansary is a compound word combining “caravan” with “sara”; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I

assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country.

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

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

350 meter apt Darus kamasae st 4bed. for VIP rental. 09124750969

Iran makes progress in ISC World University Rankings by Subject

TEHRAN – The Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) World University Rankings by Subject 2021 has listed 42 universities from Iran in different subject areas, while last year, 39 universities were included.

ISC is the third internationally accredited citation center established in the Islamic Republic of Iran based on a resolution adopted in 2008 by the 4th Meeting of the Islamic Ministers of Higher Education (ICMHESR) in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to index, evaluate and publish scientific productions in Islamic countries.

In the ISC global ranking, all subjects are divided into 6 main categories and 42 subcategories. The 6 main categories include natural sciences, engineering, and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

In the ISC Rankings by Subject, the target universities in each subject area are among the top 700 universities in the world in terms of the number of publications; in a three-year period, at least 150 degrees should be published in that subject area, which is registered in the incite database.

Iranian top universities ranked among the top universities of the world in 6 out of 7 subcategories of natural sciences, engineering, and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural



sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

The University of Tehran (401-450) and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (451-500) placed first and second among the Iranian universities in these subcategories, respectively.

In the fields of humanities, only the University of Tehran has managed to rank 501-600, and there is no university from Iran in this field, as well as the field of social and economic geography.

Islamic countries in ISC ranking

In this ranking, other Islamic countries also performed well.

In the field of natural sciences, there were 37 universities from Islamic countries, the largest number of which is related to Iran

(with 11 universities), followed by Malaysia with 5 universities.

The best rank in this field belongs to Saudi Arabia placed 120.

In the field of engineering and technology, 56 universities from Islamic countries were present, the highest number also relates to Iran with 15 universities, then Malaysia with 12. Saudi Arabia ranked first.

In the field of medical sciences and health, there were 49 universities from Islamic countries, the largest number being in Turkey with 15 universities. Iran with 12 universities and Egypt with 7 universities have been ranked after Turkey. Moreover, the best rank in this field was obtained by Iran.

In the field of agricultural sciences, Islamic countries present-

ed 88 universities, the largest number of which was in Turkey with 24 universities, Iran with 16, and Indonesia with 11 universities were the countries with the highest share in this field. Also, the best rank belonged to Malaysia.

In the social sciences category, there were 19 universities from Islamic countries, the largest number of which is related to Malaysia with 5 universities. Turkey with 2 universities got the highest number of participants. Saudi Arabia and Malaysia also got the best rank.

According to the Islamic World Science Citation Database, there were 8 universities from Islamic countries in the field of humanities, the largest share is related to Malaysia with 4 universities. Turkey with 3 universities and Iran with 1 university has also been listed in this subject area. And Malaysia also got the best rank.

Natural sciences, engineering, and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences, and humanities are the main categories in the ranking.

Iran, Kuwait sign MOU to deal with dust storms

From page 1 ► international organizations in this field, and timely warning system before the occurrence of dust storms.

SDS effects

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

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

Declining water levels in dams and lakes mean that water available to humans has been reduced and the dust-raising areas have been increased, he lamented, ISNA reported.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are

dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, south-west, and west.

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

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

APDIM director Letizia Rossano said in June that Iran is really at forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

Charity foundation supports 2,500 knowledge-based firms

TEHRAN – Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, supports 2,500 knowledge-based companies in the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year, ending March 20, 2023.

Considering the fact that there are 6,000 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, supporting 2,500 of them can lead to great changes in the field of job creation, Mohammad Torkamaneh, the CEO of Barekat Foundation said.

Meetings of knowledge-based committees of Barekat Foundation with technology parks in different provinces are being held in order to identify and support companies that are ready to launch job creation projects, he explained.

The Foundation's export company has also been registered and has started its activity focusing on exporting the products of entrepreneurs to foreign markets, he noted.

The foundation is committed to building 2,700 schools with 14,000 classrooms, as well as launching 5,000 small businesses in deprived areas over the current [Iranian calendar] year which began on March 21.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam was founded in 1989. In the Iranian calendar year, 1386 (March 2017-March 2018) Barekat Charity Foundation- the social arm of the organization- with the aim of promoting social justice was established.



Socio-economic empowerment of communities by encouraging entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructures such as water supply and power grids, building roads, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, and granting non-repayable loans and insurance, especially in less developed areas and regions most affected by 1980s war and natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year, which began on March 20, as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

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

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

WHO admires Iran's blood transfusion measures

TEHRAN – Iran's blood transfusion measures are admirable and influential in the region, Mikoko Senga, deputy representative of the World Health Organization in Iran, has said.

"I was impressed by the infrastructure and facilities of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO)," she further stated.

Referring to her work experience in different countries in the region, she considered Iran to be an influential country in the field of health and hygiene, and in particular, praised the actions of the IBTO.

Iran's advanced blood transfusion provides a suitable and needed environment for further cooperation, she noted.

A 13 percent increase in blood donation in the first three months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (started March 21, 2022), compared to the same period last year has brought the donation rate to 27 per thousand people, Mostafa Jamali, CEO of IBTO said.

He also considered planning to expand blood donation in rural areas as one of the long-term goals of his administration and requested Senga to support the blood transfusion organi-

zation in order to achieve the goal of creating facilities in deprived areas.

Senga also emphasized that the representative office of the World Health Organization in Iran is ready to support the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization in providing the necessary equipment.

In August 2021, the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization and the High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine were selected for the third time as partner centers of the WHO.

Highest blood donation in Eastern Mediterranean

Blood donation in Iran has long been done voluntarily as over 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually, Bashir Haji-Beigi, the Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman, said on June 14.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country, with Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Tehran, and Mazandaran provinces having the largest number of blood donation centers, he stated.

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran



is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 27 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk "red" zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country. Ten days later, decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas for another 10 days, through which 46 cities undergone restrictions.

The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

علیرضا رئیسی، سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: از ۸۹ شهری که از پنجم آبان محدودیت‌های کرونایی در آنها اعمال شده است، ۸۷ شهر از وضعیت قرمز خارج شده اند. او با اشاره به محدودیت های کرونایی در ۸۹ شهری که (از ۵ آبان در ۴۳ شهر و از ۱۴ آبان در ۴۶ شهر) اعمال شده است، گفت: از این تعداد به جز دو شهر همه شهرها از حالت قرمز خارج و به نارنجی یا زرد تبدیل شده اند. با توجه به ورودی بیمارستان ها و اینکه میزان بستری هم کاهش یافته است امیدواریم روند فوتی ها هم تا حدود دو تا سه هفته دیگر آثار خود را نشان دهد و روند کاهشی پیدا کند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JULY 6

New cases	1,271
New deaths	5
Total cases	7,242,919
Total deaths	141,413
New hospitalized patients	176
Patients in critical condition	273
Total recovered patients	7,063,846
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,676,979
Doses of vaccine injected	150,485,573

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:09 Evening: 20:44 Dawn: 4:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:55 (tomorrow)

Jamshid in Persian literature

Part 17

Every illustration in the Shahnameh Project's databank of miniatures shows Jamshid being cut longitudinally with the saw blade placed on his head and worked down toward his feet.

Therefore, it is not difficult to imagine that the saw is displaced upward to mask the symbolic nature of Jamshid's castration and death.

There is evidence that indicates the existence of a story about Jamshid's death, according to which Jamshid does not react to the pain and undergoes his punishment in silence.

Another report tells of his execution by being thrown to wild beasts who devour him. According to yet another version that must have been available to Fakhr-e Modabber in the early 13th century (ca. 1229 CE or after), he dies peacefully after a long reign.

The Shahnameh has nothing to say about what happened to Jamshid in the century following his defeat. That information is provided in the Garshasb-nama (comp. in 1066) of Asadi Tusi, according to which, following his ouster, Jamshid is forced to live incognito, because Zahhak has ordered all the kings under his command to arrest and send him to Iran.

In the course of his travels Jamshid meets the beautiful warrior daughter of king Gurang of Zabol. This princess, who is not named in the Garshasb-nama, but is called Parichehra in the Mojmal al-tawarikh.

Many kings and princes ask for her hand in marriage, but she refuses to get married because her father has authorized her to choose her own husband (Garshasb-nama) and, besides, her nursemaid has told her that she is destined to marry a great king and give birth to a heroic son (Garshasb-nama).

Jamshid comes upon her garden and asks for three cups of wine from one of her attendants and is taken to her. The princess falls in love with him and they begin to feast.

Soon the feasting leads to a subtle flirtatious discourse centering upon two courting doves on a nearby tree that Jam and the warrior princess kill by arrows (Garshasb-nama).

The passage is reminiscent of a similar enigmatic flirtation scene between Cuchulainn and Emer in the Irish epic Tain Bo Cuailnge. The nursemaid arrives and reveals Jamshid's identity to the princess, who confronts Jamshid with it.

Jamshid denies his identity even when he is shown one of the "wanted posters" (lit. a piece of silk bearing Jamshid's portrait) that Zahhak had sent far and wide for his arrest, and gives his name as Mahan-e Kuhi (Garshasb-nama).

Finally, after receiving assurances that he will not be betrayed, Jamshid relents and the two quietly marry (Garshasb-nama). Soon the princess gets pregnant and her father, who has grown suspicious of her behavior, discovers the truth.

At first, he threatens to arrest Jamshid and send him to Zahhak, but he changes his mind and agrees to protect his new son-in-law (Garshasb-nama).

Jamshid predicts that a great line of heroes will be born of his union with the princess; and that the fifth of them will be an exceptionally powerful paladin (Garshasb-nama).

This is somewhat contradictory to the story of Jamshid's spiritual fall, because, although according to the Shahnameh, Jamshid's farr (royal glory)—that is, the power that gives legitimate kings their magical abilities including the ability to predict future events—has left him; in the Garshasb-nama, Jamshid is able to foretell the

future as though he still possesses his farr.

Indeed, the Garshasb-nama makes no reference to Jamshid's loss of his royal glory at all. In time, Jamshid's wife gives birth to a son whom they name Tur; and although the king tries to keep Jamshid's marriage to his daughter a secret by claiming that the baby is his own son (Garshasb-nama), the boy's resemblance to Jamshid's many wanted posters betray his true paternity (Garshasb-nama).

Rumors about Jamshid grow, and king Gurang advises him to leave lest Zahhak's spies find out his whereabouts (Garshasb-nama). Jamshid leaves Zabolestan and travels first to India, and later to China, but he is captured and surrendered to Zahhak, who orders him sawed in half. Informed of his death, Jamshid's wife commits suicide after a month of mourning (Garshasb-nama).

Although the Garshasb-nama gives the impression that Jamshid was killed immediately after his arrest, according to the Kush-nama (comp. ca. 1108) of Iranshah ibn Abi'l-Khayr, he lived for fifty years in Zahhak's prison before his execution.

Jamshid's son, Tur, ascends the throne of Zabolestan following his maternal grandfather's death. His progeny all resemble their ancestor Jamshid in appearance and physical prowess (e.g., Garshasb-nama).

Apparently the reason Jamshid's progeny turn out to be such powerful heroes is that he was quite physically powerful himself and could kill any kind of wild beast by his bare hands.

There are quite a few variations on the Shahnameh story of Jamshid's life and personality. Aside from the princess of Zabolestan, who is mentioned in the Garshasb-nama, Jamshid had a number of wives and many children.

He had married a Chinese princess because, according to the Kush-nama, following Zahhak's attack, Jamshid sends his wife, the daughter of the king of China, along with his two sons, Farak and Nunak, to a forest in China.

Once assured of his family's safety, he rides against the Indian king Mehrj at the head of a great army. Unfortunately, the single manuscript of the Kush-nama has a large lacuna here and the narrative suddenly jumps to the scene of Jamshid's execution.

Jamshid's adventures in India and his wars with the Indian king are also mentioned in the Mojmal al-tawarikh, which although gives no more details at least corroborates the Kush-nama's version.

According to the Shahnameh, a number of paladins aside from the hero Garshasb/ Garshasp descend from Jamshid. A group of these are called Jamshidian (Shahnameh), the most famous of whom are the descendants of king Lohrasb/Lohrasp.

This accounts for the fact that Jamshid's pavilion, weapons, and other possessions are later found in the possession of Lohrasb's descendants. The epics composed after the Shahnameh confirm this and tell us that Lohrasb's great grandson Bahman owned Jamshid's pavilion.

In the Faramarz-nama, the hero Faramarz is mentioned as a Jamshid descendant, and we are also told that Bijan, during his adventures, came upon the burial chamber of one of Jamshid's lesser known son, Nushzad.

Some authorities report that one of Jamshid's descendants was in Noah's ark. Among the later Iranian rulers, Ya'qub ibn Lays (r. 861-79) is said to have traced his lineage to him (Tarikh-e Sistan).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Golden Pen Awards held without winners for Adult Story, Research

From Page 1 ▶ “Mr. Neighbor and I” by Alireza Motevalli and “Nanny Arbaeen and the Wonderful Bag” by Sana Saqafi shared the award in the Children's Story section.

“Mr. Neighbor and I” tells the story of Afsaneh, a 17-year-old girl whose life is affected after her father dies from an illness. Struggles with problems make her doubtful about her religious issues.

“Nanny Arbaeen and the Wonderful Bag” is about a kind old woman namely Nanny Arbaeen who has everything in her wonderful bag to help others.

“Commissioned Poetry” by Afsaneh Shabannejad won the Golden Pen for the Children's Poetry section.

In this poetry book, the chief editor of a magazine calls a poet to request the composition of a quatrain for the poetry column of the journal.

The Golden Pen Awards is organized every year on the 14th



Writer Sana Saqafi (R) accepts the award for best children's story for her book “Nanny Arbaeen and the Wonderful Bag” at the Golden Pen Awards in Tehran on July 5, 2022. (Mehr/Arshideh Shahangi)

of the month of Tir, which fell on 5 July this year, as part of Iran's celebration for Pen Day in the Iranian calendar.

This year's awards ceremony held at the Shohadaye Enqelabe Eslami Cultural Center in Tehran was attended by Iran Pen Association director Mohsen Parviz, Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs Yaser Ahmadvand and several other cultural officials.

In his short speech, Parviz announced the association's plan to hold review sessions for the winning books on TV programs, and said that the association needs support from the public sector to better accomplish its mission.

In his address to the literati attending the awards ceremony, Ahmadvand asked them to help maintain the Persian language as a major element in Iranians' identity.

Pedram Pak-Aiin, a member of the association, lamented the lack of book reading among Iranian people.

He said that people have missed their opportunity for reading in the wake of the development of virtual social networks.

Kurdistan Region theaters to screen Iranian drama “The Majority”

TEHRAN – Theaters in the Kurdistan Region cities of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok will start the premiere of the Iranian drama “The Majority” on Thursday.

Directed by Mohsen Qarai, the acclaimed film is also known as “Without Anything”.

Co-written by Qarai and Mohammad Davudi, the film is a loose screen adaptation of Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt's “The Visit”.

A rural village in pre-revolution Iran has been struggling economically for years when the imminent return of a now wealthy former resident sparks hope that she'll grant her hometown much-needed financial aid.

As the local bigwigs make bumbling plans for a grand welcome, a light satire of small-town foibles seems in store but when the woman reveals the terrible price of her support, it becomes clear that Qarai has bigger themes on his mind.

In adapting “The Visit”, Qarai unflinchingly confronts the nature of collective guilt, human weakness and revenge as the town decides

whether to sacrifice one among them for the benefit of all.

Twists and turns abound as secrets are revealed, fingers are pointed and knives are sharpened right up until the shocking finale.

“The Majority” won the special jury award and the Crystal Simorgh for best screen adaptation at the 2021 Fajr Film Festival.

The festival also honored the film with awards for best costume design, best music and best editing.

The Kurdistan Region premiere of the film is being organized with contributions from the autonomous region's Ministry of Culture and Youth.

Iranian Independents, a company marketing Iranian independent feature and documentary films, has purchased the rights to international distribution of the film.

“The Majority” was screened at the 8th edition of the Iranian Film Festival Zurich taken place in Swiss city from May 26 to June 1.



Hedieh Tehrani acts in a scene from “The Majority” directed by Mohsen Qarai.

The 2021 Sofia Middle East and North Africa Region Film Festival in Bulgaria and the 45th edition of the Mostra-Sao Paulo International Film Festival in Brazil previously screened the film.

“A Girl in Exile” at Iranian bookstores



A combination photo shows Albanian novelist Ismail Kadare and the front cover of the Persian edition of his book “A Girl in Exile”.

that she committed suicide.

Under the influence of a paranoid regime, Rudian finds himself swept along on a surreal quest to discover what really happened to Linda B. Through layers of intrigue, her story gradually unfolds: how she loved Rudian from a distance, and the risks she was prepared to take so that she could get close to him.

He becomes captivated by her story, and disturbed at how he might be culpable for her fate.

“A Girl in Exile” is a stunning, deeply affecting portrait of life and love under surveillance, infused

with myth, wry humor, and the absurdity of a paranoid regime.

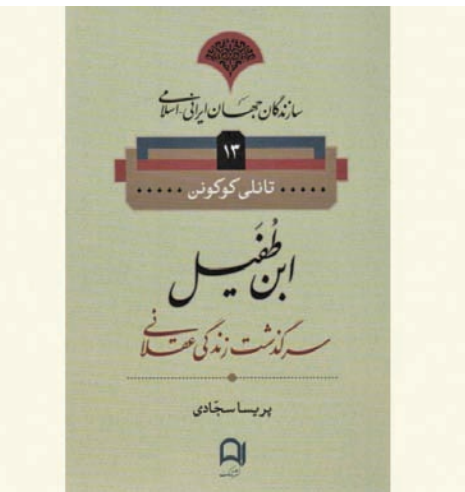
Kadare has been a leading literary figure in Albania since the 1960s. He focused on short stories until the publication of his first novel, “The General of the Dead Army”.

In 1996, he became a lifetime member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France.

He has been honored with major literary awards, including the Prix Mondial Cino Del Duca, Man Booker International Prize and Prince of Asturias Award of Arts.

Kadare has been mentioned as a possible recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature several times. His works have been published in about 30 languages.

Taneli Kukkonen's book on Andalusian philosopher Ibn Tufayl published in Persian



over of the Persian edition of Taneli Kukkonen's book “Ibn Tufayl: Living the Life of Reason”.

TEHRAN – “Ibn Tufayl: Living the Life of Reason” by Taneli Kukkonen, a professor of philosophy at NYU Abu Dhabi, has been published in Persian.

Naamak is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Parisa Sajjadi.

Ibn Tufayl (d. 1185) was an Andalusian courtier, philosopher, Sufi master and royal physician to the Almohad Caliphs.

He inspired the twelfth-century Andalusian revolt against Ptolemaic astronomy and sponsored the career of the most renowned Aristotelian of medieval times, Abu al-Walid Ibn Rushd (the Latin Averroes).

Ibn Tufayl was an exemplar of the kind of versatile scholar early Almohad culture wanted to cultivate.

In this thought-provoking and concise account, Kukkonen explores the life and thoughts of Ibn

Tufayl and assesses the influence and legacy of Hayy Ibn Yaqzan, Ibn Tufayl's famous philosophical romance.

Hayy Ibn Yaqzan became a popular and often-copied work in early modern Europe. It has since secured a place as one of the best-read works in all Arabic literature, partly due to its outstanding literary qualities, in part because it provides an ideal introduction to the themes and preoccupations of classical Arabic philosophy.

The study sets Hayy in its historical and philosophical context and paints a vivid portrait of the world as Ibn Tufayl saw it and as he wished for it to be seen.

Kukkonen is also a professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Victoria. The scholars' areas of research and interest are classical Arabic philosophy, Aristotle, and the Aristotelian and Platonic traditions.