

Iran-Taliban Border Clashes Can Be Prevented

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Opinion

Why not allowing private sector to enter the car market?

By M. A. Saki

It has been proven that the government is not successful when it comes to business and economy. Nobody can dispute this fact. Iran started a gradual process toward privatization in the years after the war against Iraq which ended in the late 1980s. The privatization plan was intended to expedite under Article 44 of the Constitution.

However, Iranians do not have a good experience with privatization. Most probably, the chief reason is that privatizations did not or are not taking place in a competitive and transparent manner.

Despite this bad experience, it is essential that the government allow the private sector to enter the car market and put an end to the monopolization by Iran Khodro and Saipa, which their substandard cars have wasted billions of dollars due to fuel inefficiency coupled with a lack of enough safety.

The car market is highly lucrative for the private sector. This time the government is not going to sell Iran Khodro or Saipa to the private sector. It must only allow the private sector to establish companies to manufacture their own brands. Except for setting certain rigid standards, the government should not interfere with their own management systems.

Also, it is important that the license to produce cars not be given to applicants or companies connected to top officials or centers of power. If this is not observed strictly, it will also prove a failure. ▶ Page 2

Report

Hezbollah's video threat to Israel

The Lebanese resistance movement published a video that lasted just over a minute, yet it carried so many messages, with an underlining powerful warning to Israel: Hezbollah can strike all Israeli ships in Karish.

The disputed natural resource-rich maritime region has been a bone of contention for several months now. The occupying Israeli regime has been busy working to extract oil and gas before resolving a dispute with Beirut on where the maritime border lies between Lebanon and the apartheid regime in the occupied Palestinian territories.

During that time Hezbollah appears to have also been working on preventing Israel from extracting any oil and gas; which Tel Aviv intends to do by September.

The video clip contained remarkably accurate and important technical data regarding the resistance movement's military, intelligence and security capabilities as well as its strong ability in using those capabilities to strengthen Lebanon's political position.

The footage, aired on Sunday, came as the United States energy envoy, Amos Hochstein, was landing in Beirut to mediate ongoing indirect talks between Lebanon and the Israeli occupation over where their sea borders end and how much of the Mediterranean Karish sea region belongs to Beirut. ▶ Page 5

India reiterates commitment to developing Chabahar port

TEHRAN - Indian Ministry of Port, Shipping, and Waterways, on Sunday, celebrated "Chabahar Day" in Mumbai to reiterate commitment to developing the southeastern Iranian port which is going to connect India to Central Asian markets through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from both sides including Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Jalil Eslami, India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, and ambassadors of several Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, as well as the representatives of some of India's major trade institutions, the PMO portal reported.

Speaking at the gathering, Sonowal stated that India's vision is to make Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar a transit hub in the region and link it to INSTC to reach out to Central Asian countries.

The minister said that Iran's Chabahar port would provide unique opportunities for shipping and logistics companies seeking to become active on the INSTC.

According to MPO's Deputy Head Hossein Shahdadi, the officials attending the gathering emphasized the importance of Chabahar port and the readiness of the respective countries to use Chabahar port for the transfer and transit of goods.

The need for the establishment of a regular shipping line between Indian ports and Chabahar, facilitating the issuance of land and sea transport bills of lading, and facilitating plant quarantine rules and requirements in the transfer and transit of horticultural and agricultural shipments were among the issues raised and requested by private sector companies in this event, Shahdadi said. ▶ Page 4

Report

Biden's blackmailing brings Iran to nuclear threshold

TEHRAN — Although the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is not officially dead yet, the internationally recognized agreement endorsed by the United Nations Security Council is now in a state of coma, chiefly due to the political confusion of U.S. President Joe Biden.

As the successor of a reckless president named Donald Trump who unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018, Biden pledged to return to the deal and built his elections campaign around it.

However, his willingness to compromise has led to a current state of coma for the 2015 nuclear deal, and this has caused Tehran to shift tones.

In an interview with Al Jazeera aired on July 18, Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said, "It should be noted that Iran is on the nuclear threshold and this is not something secret."

He added "Iran has the capability to build nuclear bomb but it has no decision" to do so. ▶ Page 2

Yazd: a prime destination for spiritual tourism

TEHRAN—Apart from its wonderful natural and cultural sites, Yazd province has long been a prime destination for spiritual tourism in the lunar month of Muharram.

It is the time when thousands of locals eagerly commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions, slain in 680 CE at Karbala in modern-day Iraq.

Holidaymakers may attend mourning ceremonies, such as Nakhli-Gardani or Nakhli-Bardari, which is a symbolic representation of the Imam's coffin, resembling an Imam's funeral; Tazieh, a passionate play inspired by historical and religious narrations; and Sineh-Zani [beating the chest].

Over the past decade, Yazd has been a major destination for foreign tourists on the ninth and the tenth days of Muharram (Tasu'a and Ashura) when the mourning ceremonies reach their climax.

The ceremonies are traditionally attended by many domestic travelers as well as people from France, Germany, Belgium, China, Turkey, Russia, the Netherlands, Brazil, Switzerland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, the UK, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Romania, Australia, and Thailand, to name a few.

Referring to Yazd as a destination for religious tourism, its deputy tourism chief on Monday said the province has been famed as a hub for spiritual tourism, CHTN reported.

Last month, the provincial tourism chief Ahmad Akhouni said: "Yazd is set to host more than one hundred special religious rituals during Muharram and Safar to commemorate the slaying of Imam Hussein (AS), a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUP)."

"This year, special mourning programs are planned to be held to get (foreign) tourists familiar with religious ceremonies held during these two months, especially on the days of Tasu'a and Ashura," the official added.

From a theological approach, religious rituals are perhaps a recreation of collective memories that help to shape what is known as collective identity, an essential foundation for a sense of belonging. One such ritual is the mourning ceremony. Rich with symbolism, most of which have historical values, these ceremonies are a platform where communal beliefs and ideas about life and death are acknowledged and as people unite in grief and hope for consolation, they search for new meanings of life and reevaluate and confirm the foundation of their beliefs. ▶ Page 6

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Op-ed

Maybe, just maybe, real change can happen...

By Martin Love

There seems little cheer about in the US and with its "allies" currently:

Climate control seems like it will not happen because maybe it can't happen and won't until it's far too late. Consider that the corrupted World Economic Forum has asserted that the personal ownership of automobiles must be curtailed radically or halted completely. What? The US, to cite one country, is entirely dependent on the automobile. Its public transport is ancient, long neglected by government: so much spending on unnecessary warmongering during and since the Vietnam War that the US is broke financially, its monetary system on the brink of collapse, its debt in the stratosphere... and still the US government is prancing about as if it still owns the world and can do no wrong when the wrongs have been off the charts far too often.

Wars, often promoted by the US, have been springing up large or small. Ukraine is just one example and that's because the US wants to break Russia and control its resources, or steal them, as it has already in other countries like Libya, Syria, Iraq, etc. The US in its entire existence has only been at full peace for about 20 years: former President Jimmy Carter had said the US is the most warlike country in world history.

The great intellectual Noam Chomsky has recently claimed that the US mainstream media has during this century become more suppressive and repressive of "free speech" in the media than the Soviet Union was after the Stalin era. ▶ Page 5

"The Wayfarer" wins grand prix at Constantine's Gold Coin film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian short movie "The Wayfarer" has won the grand prix of the 16th Constantine's Gold Coin International Animated Film Festival in Serbia.

Directed by Behruz Soleimaninazir, Shirin Soleimaninazir and Farnaz Moazen, the movie tells the story of a bird that couldn't fly and starts migrating on foot.

Over 50 films were screened in the official competition of this year's Constantine's Gold

Coin festival, which took place in Nis from July 18 to 22.

"Depths of Night" by Step Cheung from Hong Kong received first prize.

The movie was created by hand-drawn brush style in digital 2D animation with some 3D animation and sand stop motion animation. The desire was to create a new and significant visual style. In the storytelling, the director uses an interesting way to ▶ Page 8

Iran football federation denies Mahdavia's resignation rumors

TEHRAN – Mehdi Mahdavia has not stepped down as coaching role of Iran's U23 football team, the football federation of Iran announced in a statement.

The media reports suggest that Mahdavia has resigned from his post after the Iranian clubs have not cooperated with the U23 team.

"The reports are baseless and Mehdi Mahdavia is still the head coach of Iran's U23 football team," the statement reads.

The U23 football team lost to Persepolis club

4-2 in a friendly match on Sunday. The team were scheduled to play Paykan on Monday but the match has been canceled. The team prepare for the Islamic Solidarity Games in Konya, Turkey.

Mahdavia's side are drawn in Group B along with Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan.

Hosts Turkey, Senegal, Algeria and Cameroon are in Group A.

Media reports suggest that the U23 football team have withdrawn from the Games but the federation rejected the speculations.



Muharram mourning relies on devoted people

TEHRAN – Some 1400 years of mourning for Imam Hussein (AS) that is increasingly spreading all over the world is one of the miraculous aspects of people's love for the third Shia Imam.

Imam Hussein led the Battle of Karbala against the corrupt government of the tyrant of the time, Yazid, for the social justice of his people. ▶ Page 7

Biden's blackmailing brings Iran to nuclear threshold

From page 1 ► The remarks by Kharrazi sparked various reactions from political analysts all around the world, but it meant one thing: he made it clear that Iran is preparing a credible response to a possible Israeli aggression.

Kharrazi is usually reticent and cagey about Iran's foreign policy. And when he speaks, he chooses his words carefully and in a measured way. However, the same position was uttered by Iran's nuclear chief, Mohammad Eslami.

Speaking on Monday, Eslami said, "As Mr. Kharrazi stated, Iran has the technical ability to build a nuclear bomb, but this is not on the agenda."

However, he added, the important point is that the Israeli regime has made numerous false accusations and fabrications to deceive the public.

"The public is being raised with the support of the opposition front of the Islamic Revolution. They may create problems for Iran, but they will not achieve their desired results, as Iran has found its way and is moving forward with its plans," he elaborated.

Eslami also noted that all of Iran's nuclear activities are being carried out under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency in line with the NPT and the Safeguards agreement.

"The philosophy of the JCPOA was to answer all the illusory questions attributed to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, in the JCPOA, it was agreed that Iran would limit its capacity and accept strict monitoring of its nuclear activities in order to eliminate these false accusations," he noted, asking the West that if it wants to return to the deal, do it quickly and stop wasting everybody's time.

Iran is now closer than ever to obtaining a nuclear bomb, past the point where assassinations, sabotage, or even an airstrike blitz might meaningfully impede its nuclear capability.

In an article published in The Intercept, Hussain Murtaza, a prominent journalist, wrote, "Iran's path to the bomb is of course of its own making, but it has been helped along the way by Biden's stubborn refusal to make the compromises necessary to revive the 2015 nuclear deal. Biden's predecessor Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in a fit of pique, and Biden campaigned on getting back in. When push came to shove, however, Biden refused to undo Trump's aggressive measures."

Murtaza labeled the current status of the JCPOA "as a zombie," as it's neither dead nor alive.

"It's hard to say that the nuclear deal is definitively finished because, in theory, both parties could miraculously come to terms at any

time. It could be accurately described as a zombie: not quite dead, but not about to have life breathed back into it either," he wrote.

Seemingly, Biden likes blackmailing Iran. Although Trump initiated the process that led to this point, it was Biden's combination of weakness and indecision that brought the JCPOA to its current dilemma.

"The U.S. is largely stuck now with a long-term mess of its own making. Negotiating with Iran was often depicted by U.S. leaders as doing a favor to the Islamic Republic. The reality, though, was that the deal served legitimate U.S. interests: preventing nuclear proliferation, while sparing Americans from another armed conflict in the region," The Intercept commented.

Lack of commitment, political will, and guts in the Biden administration has been detrimental not only to his future as a political leader, but also to Europeans and Americans in the midst of the energy crisis. Iran, with its enormous energy market, can be a solid partner for the Europeans throughout the upcoming frigid winter. Biden, on the other hand, selected a different route. Making amends with Saudi Arabia's Mohammad bin Salman, also known as MBS.

Nonetheless, the strategy did not go as planned. Biden never received a clear guarantee from the Saudis or the Emiratis to raise oil production, and MBS spoke on the phone with Vladimir Putin, Biden's nemesis. This may be taken as the cherry on top of Russia's ice cream sundae, indicating that Russia continues to sell more oil despite U.S. sanctions.

By returning to the 2015 nuclear deal, Biden could be delighted with just one achievement during his presidency before the Republicans possibly depose him in 2024. Having barely accomplished anything in domestic or foreign policy and dealing with angry Americans for a whopping increase in fuel prices, Biden needs to return to the JCPOA more than anyone.

The nuclear accord was the Obama administration's hallmark diplomatic achievement, with Biden serving as vice president. Biden had a substantial political opportunity upon taking office to bring the United States back into compliance with the deal, the minimal parameters of which the Iranians had maintained to uphold despite Trump's maximum pressure campaign.

Instead, perhaps fearful of upsetting his political opponents, Biden declined to immediately re-enter the agreement. Due to domestic political pressure coupled with indecision, Biden continued to play good cop bad cop rather than making a genuine effort to re-enter the deal. Now it appears that he has nothing to show for it.

for which the Islamic Republic has been praised by international institutions. Of course, they care less whether the vessels in danger are Iranian or not when it comes to the issue of security provision."

"Iran will always maintain presence in international waters to safeguard the security of its cargo vessels and oil tankers," the Navy chief emphasized. According to him, Iran is the only regional country which carries out such a significant job independently in the sanction conditions and provision of Iran's economic security in the seas is the most important mission of the naval forces.

In mid-April, Rear Admiral Irani remarked that the existence of the trans-regional troops is unjustified since the regional governments can create security on their own.

"Our message to trans-regional and non-friendly countries is that enough power exists in our region, and there is no justification for their presence in the waters of this region," the top commander added.

He further emphasized that no nation has dared to approach Iran's territorial waters because of Iranian naval forces' dominance and presence on the high seas and in the oceans.

"Our interests and resources in the sea are very vast, and wherever we feel threatened, our fleet is present. Due to the authority and presence of the Iranian Navy in the seas and oceans and continuous monitoring, no country has dared to approach the country's territorial waters," the rear admiral underlined.

He emphasized that it is critical to be cautious against the enemy' plots.

Iran confirms probable new round of nuclear talks

Our expectations from Afghan brothers not fulfilled yet, Tehran says

TEHRAN — The Iranian foreign ministry confirmed on Monday that a new round of talks between Iran and P4+1 may be held soon.

This was announced by Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani while addressing the press during his weekly briefing.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been creative and has taken initiatives in the negotiation process. We consider the negotiation process as a logical and reasonable process to reach a comprehensive, stable agreement that guarantees Iran's interests, especially economic interests, within the framework of the JCPOA," the diplomat stated.

He then pointed out that in recent days various messages containing serious substances were exchanged.

"In this context, Mr. Borrell proposed a text based on past negotiations and the parties received it, and Iran also received these proposals. The Iranian side has carefully examined the text and presented its own point of view. In this regard, we witnessed the efforts and dynamism of other parties."

Efforts are being made by the French side to bring the views closer, Kanaani noted, saying that Iran welcomes any initiative that helps to reach an agreement.

"We were always creative and flexible and were present at the negotiating table. After the exchange of messages that happened in the last days and week and the reviews that were done on the proposed texts, there is a possibility that in the near future we will be able to reach a conclusion regarding the timing of the negotiations and probably conduct a new round of negotiations," he added.

The spokesman underlined that this depends entirely on the will of the other side, especially the



American side, to show its readiness to reach a logical, reasonable and stable agreement.

"We are optimistic that the negotiation process will lead us to logical and reasonable results. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers reaching an agreement as a serious strategy and does not look at the talks as a tactic. It believes that reaching an agreement can provide both our interests and the interests of the other parties," Kanaani noted.

U.S. imposed "unnecessary costs" to Iran

The diplomat added, "Iran remained in the JCPOA and the party that left the agreement was the U.S. government, which imposed 'unnecessary costs' on Iran and the international community and the members of the agreement. Iran expects the U.S. government to act responsibly and return to the agreement with political will and secure its full interests within the agreement."

We follow Iraq's developments with concern

Elsewhere in the presser, Kanaani responded to a question on the recent events in Iraq, saying that Iraq is Iran's important neighbor.

"Naturally, we follow the current developments of this country carefully and with concern. Iran has always emphasized the stability and

importance of the establishment and security of this important country as a neighbor, friend and brother, and believes that the security of Iraq is the security of Iran and the region," the diplomat stated.

"We consider the current developments caused by internal political differences. We believe that Iraq's parties and political organizations can overcome the current situation within the framework of the constitution and legal mechanisms of this country and in peaceful ways with mutual respect," Kanaani noted.

The senior diplomat then stated that Iran always respects the choice of the Iraqi people and emphasizes that dialogue is the best way to solve the internal problems of the country.

"We have this confidence that the brave nation of Iraq, with the maturity they have and the tact we see in the leaders of Baghdad can pass this stage well and witness increasing stability and peace in Iraq," he noted.

President emphasizes pursuing Iran's water rights

Kanaani then faced a question on Iran's unfulfilled water rights from Helmand River, saying that the issue of water rights is a very important issue.

"The president recently emphasized the necessity of

pursuing Iran's water rights. This is a very important issue for us," he stated.

The spokesman went on to note that Tehran considers the issue of water rights based on the agreements between Iran and Afghanistan to be a very important issue.

"We emphasize that the commitment of the interim governing body of Afghanistan to the provisions of the definitive agreements between Iran and Afghanistan regarding the water rights. This is a benchmark and a testing ground for the extent of the commitment of the authorities of this country to common agreements and respecting the rights of neighbors," he elaborated.

"We are seriously following this issue, and the foreign minister, after the president's order, spoke with the acting foreign minister of the interim Afghanistan governing body and emphasized the necessity of providing Iran's water rights."

The interim governing body of Afghanistan is expected to fulfill its commitments and remove the existing obstacles and help facilitate providing Iran's water rights, he pointed out.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its readiness to send its technical delegation to cooperate with the relevant parties in Afghanistan provided there are technical obstacles, and we have declared our readiness for the energy minister's visit to provide the grounds for the implementation of the agreement," the diplomat stated.

The spokesman told the press that Tehran's expectations from the Taliban has not yet been fulfilled, as the amount of water entering Iran is very small and Iran expects "the brothers in Afghanistan" to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities in this regard.

IRGC chief says U.S. plots in installing puppet regimes shrinking 'like dominos'

TEHRAN – Major General Hossein Salami, the chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), says the United States is always plotting to create puppet regimes, but that all of these plans are crumbling "like dominos."

In a meeting with the political managers of the IRGC on Sunday, Salami stated that America's political domain is shrinking and ending in fiasco.

He cited the U.S.'s missteps in Afghanistan, Syria, and Egypt as well as a number of fruitless plans it carried out in conjunction with the Israeli regime, saying that these incidents are indications that herald a huge event, which is the complete loss of the U.S. hegemony.

The IRGC commander-in-chief also said the enemies are today divided and disunited and unable to aid one another.

Terrorist group mastermind admits receiving assistance from Sweden

TEHRAN- At his trial on Sunday, the ringleader of the terrorist and separatist organization Al-Ahwaziya admitted that Stockholm and the Swedish intelligence service have been supporting him.

Farajollah Chaab, also known as Habib Asyoud, said during a court proceeding in Tehran that Swedish officials gave him a device and instructed him to press a button in the event that he was in danger. He also noted that they assured him that they would rush to his rescue after he did so.

The defendant was questioned by Judge Iman Afshari about whether he acknowledges that he is a Swedish national and receives help from the government and intelligence agencies of that country which he answered that the Swedish government supports him and that he is a resident and national of Sweden.

"They gave me a device so I could press its button when I felt danger,

and it would alert the Swedish government security agents, and they would rescue me wherever I was," he confessed.

In September 2018, a terrorist incident in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, southwest Iran, was carried out by the Al-Ahwaziya group led by Chaab.

The ringleader of the terrorist cell was responsible for killing innocent people and seriously damaging public property in Khuzestan using explosives, grenades, and Klashnikov guns, according to the lawyer for the relatives of people slain in the terror incident.

The defendant should receive the death punishment, the attorney said.

During the session, the prosecutor's representative Amin Vaziri said that Sweden had become a refuge for terrorist organizations including PJAK, the Nadhal Movement, and MKO.

"Chaab is a Swedish citizen and

Why not allowing private sector to enter the car market?

from page 1 ► The government must also give priority to the production of electric vehicles (EV) as such cars are taking the center stage in the world. Just as in previous years that the government allowed persons who

had a certain amount of money to establish banks, such a mechanism can be applied to the production of cars.

If the private sector starts to produce electric passenger cars, then conditions will be provided

to gradually free the price of gasoline.

In that condition, the current car companies, which have monopolized the market, will be forced to either adapt to the new situation and make a transition to zero-emission vehicles or close down.

Iran-Taliban border clashes can be prevented

TEHRAN – The unfamiliarity of the Taliban forces with the nuances of border issues has once again caused completely preventable clashes on the border with Iran, which has so far exercised restraint to contain the situation.

On Sunday, Afghan news media broke the news that clashes took place between the border guards of Iran and the Taliban in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan.

Iran confirmed the news and moved quickly to prevent the issue from spiraling out of control.

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Seyed Majid Mir-Ahmadi said the clashes erupted in the Hirmand region when a small group of Taliban border guards ignored border laws and took provocative measures in the Zahak region. The Taliban forces opened fire on Iranian border guards after entering an area they were not authorized to, which prompted the Iranian side to respond in kind. The clashes lasted for an hour and resulted in the killing of a Taliban member and the injury of another one.

The episode came to an end thanks to Iran's prudence and diplomatic efforts. Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan, who has been busy over the last year coordinating Iran's Afghanistan policy, moved to calm the situation.

He said a meeting was held with Taliban defense officials in the wake of the clashes and it resulted in a decision to form a joint committee between Tehran and Kabul to address border issues and prevent the recurrence of border clashes.



The Iranian envoy said the Taliban defense officials instructed their border guards to avoid frictions with their Iranian counterparts after the meeting.

The clashes took place because the Taliban border guards were unfamiliar with the complexities of the porous Iran-Afghanistan borders, according to Iranian officials. Iran's state news agency IRNA said the Taliban guards were conducting patrols inside Iranian territories.

This may explain Iran's calm approach and its measured response to Taliban border infractions despite the fact that Sunday's clashes were not the first in their kind. Over the last year, several similar clashes took place and in all of them Iran sought to soothe tensions.

That's because Iran believes that Taliban forces are yet to get familiar with border issues. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani

referred to this on Monday.

“Our understanding of the events of the past two days on the common border with Afghanistan is that these events seem to be caused by the lack of proper attention and knowledge of the Afghan border guards about the common border lines and the known border lines of the two countries,” Kanaani said.

“Last year, we created a security wall to deal with traffickers and drug trafficking. In some of these areas, it seems that the Afghan border guards are not aware of the border situation and do not have accurate knowledge of border areas and lines. And some of their actions and movements cause misunderstandings and sometimes border clashes,” he added.

The spokesman noted, “Iran's border guard forces closely monitor the border movements along the borders of the region. We expect the authorities of Afghanistan to

train their border guard forces more carefully. And they should be familiar with the border lines and know their duties so that we do not witness the repetition of such incidents.”

Therefore, border misunderstandings can certainly be cleared up through a Taliban decision to sufficiently train Afghan border guards on border issues. Iran is not seeking to escalate tensions with Afghanistan. Quite on the contrary, it seeks better relations with the war-torn country.

But there are voices in Iran calling for a tougher stance on the Taliban in case border clashes continue. Shahriyar Heidari, an Iranian lawmaker, told ILNA that now Iran is not taking decisive action against the Taliban because it blames border clashes on the Taliban's unawareness of border laws but if the Taliban continue to violate these laws, they will receive a decisive response.

“At half past one this afternoon [Sunday], after clashes that lasted for an hour, this development was brought under control and the situation was contained by the border forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well,” he continued.

While noting the need for Afghan forces to abide by border and geographic standards, the Iranian deputy interior minister said, “Afghan officials had been previously warned not to allow similar incidents to occur that might lead to unnecessary tensions on both sides.”

Iranian Foreign Minister spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that the recent clashes derived from Taliban forces' unfamiliarity with border issues.

“Our understanding of the events of the past two days on the common border with Afghanistan is that these events seem to be caused by the lack of proper attention and knowledge of the Afghan border guards about the common border lines and the known border lines of the two countries,” Kanaani pointed out.

Speaking at a weekly presser, Kanaani added, “Last years, we created a security wall to deal with traffickers and drug trafficking. In some of these areas, it seems that the Afghan border guards are not aware of the border situation and do not have accurate knowledge of border areas and lines. And some of their actions and movements cause misunderstandings and sometimes border clashes.”

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and going of governments would not harm the country's nuclear development path.”

Eslami pointed out that the AEOL has plans to build more nuclear power stations and increase radiation uses as well as develop and accelerate infrastructure, because his organization wants the impact of nuclear technology to be felt in the living affairs of citizens more and more.

In April, Eslami said the “Comprehensive Strategic Document for Nuclear Development” properly covered the AEOL's situation as well as the country's nuclear strategy.

The document included multiple aspects of nuclear technology, the

SPORTS

Iran U23 football team withdraw from Islamic Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will not participate at the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games, Faraz Fatemi, sporting director of the team, has confirmed the news is correct.

“The Iranian clubs have previously announced their readiness to cooperate with U23 football team but they don't release their players to join us for the friendly matches,” Fatemi said.

“We decided not to participate at the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games. We wanted to take part at the Games to prepare our team for the 2024 Olympic Games qualification but we cannot participate in the competition with an incomplete team,” he added.

The U23 football team lost to Persepolis club 4-2 in a friendly match on Sunday. The team were scheduled to play Paykan on Monday but the match has been canceled.

Mehdi Mahdavia's side are drawn in Group B along with Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan.

Hosts Turkey, Senegal, Algeria and Cameroon are in Group A.

24-2023 ACL Schedule confirmed

TEHRAN – The AFC Executive Committee of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has approved the new calendar of the 2023-24 AFC Champions League season.

The new edition is set to kick off with the Preliminary Stage 1 on August 8, 2023, while the Group Stage is scheduled to take place from September 18 to December 13, 2023.

The Knockout Stage will be held from February 12 to April 24, 2024, before the two-legged Final is staged on May 11 and 18, 2024.

The recommendation to eliminate the away goals rule as a tiebreaker option was also approved and instead, extra time and, if necessary, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine the winner of tied home and away matches.

This will be implemented in the AFC Club Competitions from the 2023-24 season onwards.

Iranian Hulk apologizes after losing to Kazakh Titan

TEHRAN – Sajad Gharibi, known as Iranian Hulk, apologized to the country's people after losing to Djumanov Almat Bakhytovich.

Gharibi lasted less than two minutes of his boxing debut as he was stopped by heavyweight rival Kazakh Titan in Dubai.

It was clear from the first round that Titan was far more prepared than Hulk Gharibi – simply by being able to throw a punch. Indeed, Hulk continuously turned his back in the opening stages and was given a time-out within the first minute.

The Iranian Hulk was supposed to meet Martyn Ford on April 30 in the boxing ring in a headline event but the fight was called off due to reasons Ford originally claimed were 'out of his control'.

The Iranian fans have blasted Gharibi on the social media due to his lackluster performance against Bakhytovich.

Shortly after the battle, Gharibi published a video in which he apologized to the Iranian people for his loss against Kazakh Titan.

Iran freestyle team finish fourth in U17 World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran freestyle team finished in fourth place in the 2022 U17 World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Ebrahim Elahi won Iran's sole gold medal in the 60kg final bout after defeating Kyrgyzstan's Bilol Sharip Uulu.

In the 51kg final, Iran's Mohammad Asadi lost to American wrestler Luke Joseph Lilledahl.

Iran's Reza Kamal Soleimanian also lost to Indian Mor Sachin in the 80kg final bout.

Arshia Bahram Haddadi in the 48kg and Erfan Alizadeh in the 92kg also snatched two bronze medals.

The U.S. won a historic first U17 freestyle world title with nine out of their 10 wrestlers winning medals including four golds. It finished with 190 points which was more than enough to exchange places with defending champions India which finished with 126 points.

Azerbaijan, a nation that won the European team title, finished third with 122 points.

Ebrahim Elahi's gold was Iran's first of the tournament as it finished fourth in the team rankings with 117 points.

Iran win two golds on final day of World Taekwondo Cadet Championships

TEHRAN – Iran claimed two gold medals and one silver on the final day of the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria on Sunday.

In the men's under-49 kg category final, Mohammadmehdi Saadati defeated Eunseok Lee of South Korea 2-0.

Bronze medals went to Dostan Nazhimkhanov of Kazakhstan and Bahadur Dostuyev of Azerbaijan.

Iran claimed the last gold of the Championships in the men's under-61kg, with Radin Zeinali victorious against Nika Gogoberidze of Georgia.

Bronze medals in the category went to Artur Pak of Kazakhstan and Yunis Huseynov of Azerbaijan.

In the women's under-37kg category final, Parnian Saki from Iran lost to Thosiri Singthong of Thailand.

Bronze medals were won by Alina Martirosyan of the United States and Oumaima Allassak of France.

Sardar Azmoun; secret superstar

TEHRAN – In Germany, many football fans will recognize only his name – in his homeland, you no longer have to explain it. Sardar Azmoun (27) is the secret superstar in the German Bundesliga.

He is a popular hero in Iran. With 4.8 million followers on Instagram, he has more than Dortmund's world champion Mats Hummels (33/4.1 million) – and that's just a fraction of what you should know about him...

Leverkusen won the title of top scorer in the Russian Premier League 2019/20 (17 goals) before the end of the winter transfer period last January for 2.5 million euros from Zenit St Petersburg. New season preview. Azmon and Bayer initially agreed on a free transfer for the summer.

With the versatile attacking player, Werkself finally got not only the title collector (he won four championships, one cup and two major cups with Zenit in Russia), but also the greatest horse whisperer in the league: Azmoun has 52 (!) Race horses.

“They are in Iran and Australia. I bought my first horse when I was 17,” says the player, whose first name is Sardar on his number 9 shirt, to SPORT BILD.

Azmoun grew up around horses. When talking about his childhood, International Pack said, “When I was young, my father, grandfather and uncle had horses on their big farm. Horses have always played a big role in our family. With my father's help, I was able to ride horses at the age of three. That was the beginning of my love for these animals.”

Azmoun confirms that he knows the names of all 52 horses. He is particularly taken with the stallion Serkan: “I love all my horses, but Serkan and his father are my favorites. Serkan is one year old, and he will be racing when he is two.”

Running is the passion of professional football. His family has already won prize money of up to 25,000 euros in the races. But who will take care of the horses while champion Azmon is set to attack Bayern with Leverkusen in Germany? “I have a big farm and its manager is in Iran. I have coaches and riders to train and riders to race,” says Russia 2021 Player of the Year.

Iran to form joint committee with Taliban to prevent border clashes: envoy

TEHRAN – Hassan Kazemi Qomi, the Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan, has said that a meeting was held with the Taliban defense officials in the wake of the recent border clashes during which it was agreed to form a joint committee to prevent the recurrence of border clashes.

Following a border clash in the Hirmand region, a meeting was held on Sunday between the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Defense of the Taliban government.

“The Ministry of Defense of the Taliban government, in contact with the border guard forces in Afghanistan, instructed them to avoid clashes, and included on the agenda the formation of a joint committee to avoid the repetition of such practices,” Kazemi Qomi stated.

On Sunday evening, a border clash in the Hirmand border area took place between Iran and Afghanistan, according to press reports.

In this regard, the governor of the Hirmand district said, “A clash took place between the Iranian border guards and the border guards of the Taliban authority in the Shalalak area of the Hirmand district.”

The governor indicated that the Taliban forces crossed the borders and the Iranian border guards responded as necessary, and then the Taliban responded, but there were no casualties, according to Al Alam.

A security official in Nimroz province told Fars News Agency that the Taliban forces were patrolling in an area close to the border with Iran, and they clashed with the border guards of the opposite side, and the two sides exchanged fire.

“In this clash, a member of the Taliban was killed and another wounded, and some residential areas were damaged,” he added.

As for the reason for the clash, the security

Lawmakers insist on passing nuclear document into law: Eslami

TEHRAN – The Iranian lawmakers are insisting on turning the comprehensive document and roadmap for developing the nuclear sector into a law, so that changing governments do not harm the country's nuclear development path, Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOL) chief Mohammad Eslami announced on Sunday after attending a session of the parliament's energy committee.

“The Atomic Energy Organization, within the framework of achieving the Leader of the Revolution's directives and the plans of the current government, took the initiative to prepare the comprehensive document on nuclear energy, which was presented on April

10, 2022,” he said, according to Al Alam.

He added, “In conjunction with that the Atomic Energy Organization was mandated in the budget law for the current year by the Majlis (Parliament) to prepare a comprehensive document and roadmap for the development of the nuclear sector for the next 50 years, and to be approved by the government until the end of this year.”

The current Iranian year ends on March 20, 2023.

The top nuclear official continued, “During this session, the representatives were mostly looking at quantitative goals, and they had this vision that this document would be turned into law, so that the coming

India reiterates commitment to developing Chabahar port



From page 1 ► Under a 10-year agreement with Iran, India has committed to develop and operate Shahid Beheshti terminal in Chabahar, located on the Sea of Oman in southeast Iran.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures for developing this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

Monthly gasoline exports stand at \$32m

TEHRAN - Iran exported 116 million liters of gasoline worth about \$32 million in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) showed.

Over the past few years, the Islamic Republic has managed to not only become self-sufficient in gasoline production but also become a net exporter of the strategic fuel, however, the significant increase in domestic gasoline consumption in recent months has once again raised concerns about the need for imports.

Iran became a net gasoline exporter in February 2019, after the inauguration of the third phase of the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGS) project which added 120,000 barrels to the country's daily gasoline production.

The increase in the country's gasoline production and exports came despite the fact that nearly two years ago Iran was an importer of the strategic product, shipping in over 4.5 million liters per day of gasoline.

Majlis to pass preventive laws to deal with stock market violations



TEHRAN - Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament (Majlis)'s Economic Committee has said the parliament is seeking to pass new legislations to prevent stock market violations, IRNA reported on Monday.

"Currently, in order to deal with destructive violations such as unauthorized transactions, we are considering a bill to amend the capital market law for the independence of Stock Exchange Organization (SEO) and to add new restrictive regulations," Pour-Ebrahimi said.

TEDPIX gains 4,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,112 points on Monday.

As reported, TEPIX closed at 1.427 million points, as over 3.55 billion securities worth 20.816 trillion rials (about \$74.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 2,981 points,

and the second market's index gained 8,373 points.

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

trade partner in the four-month period.

In late May, Iranian ambassador to India said that Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand the bilateral trade.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express Online, Ali Chegeni said, "We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and

Major banks, institutions ink MOUs worth \$17.8b to build refinery, petro-refinery

TEHRAN - Major Iranian banks have signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with domestic companies to provide \$17.8 billion for the construction of a large-scale refinery and a petro-refinery one, IRNA reported

As reported, the MOUs for the funding of Morvarid Makran Refinery and Shahid Ghasem Soleimani Petro-refinery, each with a total processing capacity of 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), were signed by the representatives of the mentioned entities on Monday, in a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and Oil Minister Javad Oji.

During the ceremony, Bank Meli Iran, Tejarat Bank, and Refah Bank signed an MOU with National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC), Ahdaf Investment Group and Tdbir Energy Development Group for investing \$11.1 billion in Shahid Ghasem Soleimani Petro-refinery.

Also, Morvarid Makran Refinery is going to be constructed with a total investment of \$6.7 billion based on an MOU signed among Bank Mellat, Parsian Bank, and Mofid Economic Group.



Shahid Ghasem Soleimani Petro-refinery is going to be established in Jask Island while Morvarid Makran Refinery will be constructed in Bandar-Abbas, both in southern Iran.

Nearly 65 percent of the products produced in Shahid Soleimani Petro-refinery will be fuels and 35 percent would be chemical products.

The projects are scheduled to be completed within five years.

Creating added value, preventing the sales of raw materials, preventing the import of gasoline, increasing the country's refining capacity and production of

petroleum products, creating jobs and supporting domestic knowledge-based companies, and guiding liquidity towards productive investment, are among the major goals of the said projects.

Due to the country's benefit from oil and gas resources, the development of petro-refineries is much easier and relatively cheaper in Iran than other countries in the world, and the country can play a role in regulating the price of petrochemical products in the world due to its proximity to energy sources and its capacity for the development of petro-refineries.

Commodities worth \$437m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,062,224 tons of commodities worth \$437 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.632 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$232 million

On this floor the IME sold 946,234 tons of cement, 391,000 tons of iron ore, 202,617 tons of steel, 31,500 tons of sponge iron, 30,000 tons of cast iron, 15,545 tons of zinc, 8,025 tons of aluminum, 8,015 tons of copper, 100 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 7 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 424,839 tons of commodities worth more than \$199 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 79,749 tons of polymeric products, 10,800 tons of vacuum bottom, 25,500 tons of lube cut, 26,292 tons of chemicals, 25,700 tons of sulfur, 3,652 tons of base oil, 225 tons of insulation and 154,732 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 5,343 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 8.849 million tons of commodities worth more than \$2.2 billion were



traded at the IME during the past Iranian calendar month Khordad (ended on July 22), the third month of Iranian calendar year.

The exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 1.121 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$784 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 201,350 tons of vacuum bottom, 275,059 tons of bitumen, 316,753 tons of polymeric products, 148,500 tons of lube cut, 161,706 tons of chemicals, 4,605 tons of sulfur, 13,456 tons of oil, 110 tons of argon, 1,000 tons of slops wax and 755 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 7.696 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.4 billion.

Items traded on this floor included 4,352,000 tons of cement, 1,428,000 tons of steel, 1,551,000

tons of iron ore, 273,500 tons of sponge iron, 36,225 tons of aluminum, 41,400 tons of zinc, 20,910 tons of copper, 510 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 1,000 tons of coke, 60 tons of lead, 60 tons of precious metals concentrate and 57 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 31,660 tons commodities.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Export from Bushehr province rises 79% in 4 months on year



TEHRAN - The value of export from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, rose 79 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Mehdi Safavi, the director-general of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that over 9.723 million tons of products worth over \$5.164 billion were exported from Bushehr province in the said four-month period, indicating also 12 percent growth in terms of weight.

He named petrochemicals, minerals, fisheries and vegetables as the main exported products, and China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Mozambique, Turkey, Pakistan and Singapore as the major sources of export.

The official further announced that about 206,000 tons of commodities valued at over \$672 million were imported to the province in the first four months of the present year, indicating 95 percent growth in value and 45 percent rise in weight year on year.

He named kinds of fabric, rice, kinds of tea, kinds of tire, motorcycle and bicycle parts, kinds of restaurant cooking devices, and passenger car parts as the major imported items, and China, UAE, Russia, India, Thailand, Philippines, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Republic of Korea and Japan as the main sources of imports during the said four-month period.

As previously announced by Behrouz Qarehbeygi, 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, the 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.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$17.24 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 22 percent compared to the last year's same period.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran exported 35.656 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned four months, IRIB reported.

Meanwhile, some 11.159 million tons of goods valued at \$17.24 billion were imported into the country in the

said period, indicating a 17-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same time span.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 46.815 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$34.48 billion with its trade partners in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 19 percent in terms of value, the IRICA data showed.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$5.617 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$2.398 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$2.264 billion, Turkey with \$2.06 billion, and India with \$567 million.

Liquid propane, methanol, liquefied natural gas, urea, liquid butane, polyethylene, bitumen, light petroleum oils, iron and steel ingots, and light oil products were among the top exported items in the said four months.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during these four months were the UAE with \$4.875 billion, China with \$4.422 billion, Turkey with \$1.787 billion, India with \$859 million, and Russia with \$599 million worth of imports.

Iran exports commodities worth \$567m to India in 4 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil products valued at \$567 million to India in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Iran has also imported goods worth with \$859 million from India in the first four months of this year.

Based on the IRICA data, India was Iran's fifth

trade partner in the four-month period.

In late May, Iranian ambassador to India said that Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand the bilateral trade.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express Online, Ali Chegeni said, "We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and



services including all of non - oil goods and to achieve this".

During the past two years, because of Covid restrictions, we pursue the issue via virtual dialogues and currently our officials are following the matter through the exchange of delegations, the envoy stated.

"We want to develop our economic and trade relations beyond energy and

petrochemical products. Since due to the complementarity of Iran and India economies, an extensive range of non-oil trade exists between two sides including trade on goods and services, investment, tourism, education and ... which may pave the way for multiplying our economic relations ten times more than current relations in mid and long terms", Chegeni said.

Maybe, just maybe, real change can happen...

From page 1 ► The net result of this? Honest journalists have been disappeared from the broadcast and print media in the US, with a few rare exceptions that almost no one gets to read and even know exist. The best US journalists might be found on new outlets like Russia Today, though that can no longer be seen in the US, or even in al-Jazeera or in the Tehran Times for English readers. And 90 percent or more of US citizens are woefully uninformed about what's really happening and why in a world that seems to be coming apart at the seams, even if or because many US adults can no barely read English beyond a fifth-grade level.

“The US in its entire existence has only been at full peace for about 20 years.”

US allies, including countries in the EU, are some of the most debauched, detached, sorry “allies” anyone could conceive or even want to have. Saudi Arabia under the butcher MBS, who was shunned as a “little Saddam” by his classmates as a youth and often banned from the playing fields by his young peers in Saudi Arabia and was hardly seen as the future leader there. How in Allah's name did he come to govern Saudi Arabia



as a dictator? That's a question for the ages. Indeed, it appears that in a number of countries or a collection of countries the worst faux leaders seem to rise to the top. Boris Johnson and now Liz Truss? Ursula von der Leyen? Vladimir Zelensky? And others. It's well-nigh unbelievable, but true, that these and others are corrupted leaders, vassals of the US for the most part, not serving their respective people.

And then for now, there is the US since 2000, but especially since 2016. George Bush? Even Barack Obama who started well but lost his mind six months after his inauguration and his Cairo speech, quite likely under threat. Trump, who killed the JCPOA and gave the Zionists carte blanche, and who has lived a debauched life since his youth? Did Obama remember what happened to

JFK in the early 1960s? Kennedy threatened to disband the CIA and even had second thoughts about the Vietnam War in its infancy, which in ignominy his successor, Lyndon Johnson, took beyond the moon, which effectively began to bankrupt the US slowly. By 1971 his successor, Richard Nixon took the US dollar off of the gold standard, debauching the dollar ever since as a store of real value by slow, and now ever faster degrees.

And now Israel, the US's number one alleged “ally” in Asia, is taking ethnic cleansing, land theft and murderous violence in Palestine to obscene heights, not to mention roiling the Arab/Muslim dominated world and especially Iran with threats of more violence even of the nuclear kind along with sanctions. What Arabs support Israel at all these days, or have ever? Not most regular, Arab

citizens under the heels of filthy rich dictators as in the Persian Gulf area. Egypt is not much better under Sisi.

But this writer is merely pointed out a few of the most abusive negatives. What's the good news, if there is any?

A multipolar world is being painfully born. The US is slowly losing its world hegemony and trying desperately in all the wrong ways to maintain it, further discrediting itself across the globe. Informed people in the US see this. Joe Biden for example has the lowest approval rating of any President

“A multipolar world is being painfully born.”

to date: a mere 38 percent of the population apparently. The possibly ascendent GOP is racist and fascist at its core for now. A third political party is being born at the margin inside the US.

Thus the entire world suffers but dreams of real change. The EU and even NATO could dissolve in this decade. EU countries have dispensed with sovereignty as mere vassals to US demands. Europe has been taken down the primrose path by the US but revolutions may be brewing there. And no one wins if the US launches World War 3. Not even the US.

Pelosi expected to visit Taiwan, Taiwanese and US officials say



US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is expected to visit Taiwan as part of her tour of Asia, according to a senior Taiwanese government official and a US official, despite warnings from Biden administration officials, who are worried about China's response to such a high-profile visit, CNN reported.

The stop -- the first for a US House speaker in 25 years -- is not currently on Pelosi's public itinerary and comes at a time when US-China relations are already at a low point.

The Taiwanese official added that she is expected to stay in Taiwan overnight. It is unclear when exactly Pelosi will land in Taipei.

The US official added that Defense Department officials are working around the clock on monitoring any Chinese movements in the region and securing a plan to keep her safe.

During a regular foreign ministry briefing Monday, China warned against the “egregious political impact” of Pelosi's planned visit to the self-governing island that China considers as a part of its territory and reiterated that its military “won't sit by idly” if Beijing feels its “sovereignty and territorial integrity” is being threatened.

“We would like to tell the US once again that China is standing by, and the Chinese People's Liberation Army will never sit idly by. China will take resolute responses and strong countermeasures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters, when asked about the fallout from Pelosi leading a congressional delegation to Taipei.

“As for what measures, if she dares to go, then let's wait and see,” Zhao added.

National Security Council coordinator for strategic communications John Kirby said Monday that the Biden administration will support Pelosi on a trip to Taiwan.

“We want to make sure that when she travels overseas, she can do so safely and securely and we're going to make sure of that. There is no reason for the Chinese rhetoric. There is no reason for any actions to be taken. It is not uncommon for congressional leaders to travel to Taiwan,” Kirby told CNN's Brianna Keilar on “New Day.”

“We shouldn't be as a country -- we shouldn't be intimidated by that rhetoric or those potential actions. This is an important trip for the speaker to be on and we're going to do whatever we can to support her,” Kirby continued.

Asked if the US was prepared for fallout with China over the visit, Kirby said that “there is no change to our policy. No change to our focus on trying to keep a free and safe and open Indo-Pacific.”

The issue of Taiwan remains one of the most contentious. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping discussed it at length in a two-hour-and-17-minute phone call on Thursday, as tensions mounted between Washington and Beijing.

“The question of Taiwan is the most sensitive, important core issue in China-US relations,” said Chinese Ambassador to the US Qin Gang at the Aspen Security Forum in July.

While Biden has said publicly the US military did not believe it was a good time Pelosi to visit Taiwan, he has stopped short of telling her directly not to go, according to two sources.

Administration officials have worked over recent weeks to apprise the House speaker of the risks of visiting the democratic, self-governing island of 24 million residents, including in briefings from Pentagon and other administration officials. But Biden did not believe it was his place to tell her she should not go, and he has avoided commenting publicly about her trip since his initial statement on July 21.

Biden said last month that the US military opposed Pelosi visiting Taiwan, though since then has refused to elaborate on the warnings. The White House has said it is up to the House speaker where she travels.

Still, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recently said he'd discussed a visit to Asia with Pelosi.

The administration takes extra care for Pelosi's security when she travels overseas because she is in the presidential line of succession.

Administration officials are concerned Pelosi's trip comes at a particularly tense moment, as Xi is expected to seek an unprecedented third term at the upcoming Chinese Communist Party congress. Chinese party officials are expected to begin laying the groundwork for that conference in the coming weeks, putting pressure on the leadership in Beijing to show strength.

repeatedly acknowledged that the policy has been a total failure.

In a telephone call with Borrell on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Tehran welcomes the continuation of the path of diplomacy with the aim of reaching an agreement, urging the US to be “realistic.”

Borrell has recently written an article for the Financial Times saying that he had proposed a new draft text aimed at reviving JCPOA.

“This text represents the best possible deal that I, as facilitator of the negotiations, see as feasible. It is not a perfect agreement, but it addresses all essential elements and includes hard-won compromises by all sides,” he wrote.

(Source: Press TV)



In quitting the agreement four years ago, then-US president Donald Trump restored sanctions on Iran as part of what he called the “maximum pressure” campaign against the country. Those sanctions are being enforced to this day by the Joe Biden administration, even though it has

Hezbollah's video threat to Israel

From page 1 ► In a recent interview, the Secretary General of Hezbollah pointed out that the Lebanese resistance is closely monitoring the mediation talks. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Hezbollah will not allow “the Lebanese people to be laughed at by American mediators”

He also warned that the movement's “precision missiles can strike targets across all of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian land and sea” and that time is not on the Lebanese state's side to drag it's feet in negotiations over Lebanon's rights.

The other part of the interview that made headlines was Sayyed Nasrallah saying Hezbollah has flown drones over the occupied Palestinian territories dozens of times and has enough information on Israeli operations in the Karish energy field.

The interview was conducted a few days ago and if Israel was under the illusion that Sayyad Nasrallah was exaggerating when he said Hezbollah has enough information on Karish, then it was in for a surprise.

The video released on Sunday began with an audio quote from the words of Sayyad Nasrallah in a speech, delivered several weeks ago on the anniversary of the July war, that said “playing with time is not useful”

In between showing the Israeli ships operating at the Karish field, quick glimpses of land-to-sea missiles being prepared to fire are shown, what will happen next with the missiles is left to the regime's imagination.

The clip then shows the “Arendal Spirit” platform, the video shows it in the target of the missiles and information appears about the floating platform reading “75 meters long, 75 meters wide and employed by 67 people.”



The film moves to the second Israeli target operating in the energy field with the information appearing on screen reading “Energean Power FPSO production and storage vessel, registered in Singapore, its measurements are 227 * 50 * 100 meters, the number of workers on it is 113, and its exact coordinates are E 37 17 1.5577 and N 33 12 14.6911.”

Then the movements of the “Stenna Icemax Drill and exploration ship, registered in Britain, 227 * 42 * 19 meters, carrying 134 people on board, and its exact coordinates are E 34 19 11.0065 and N 33 14 2.5734” was shown.

The data was then updated at the end of the video clip by publishing coordinates dating back to the same day it was produced, on July 30, which suggests that Hezbollah has been closely observing the Israeli ships' movements and monitoring the coordinates permanently and continuously.

The missiles owned by the resistance, as shown in the video are sealed with the slogan the “Naval Force” of Hezbollah alongside a quote from the Holy Quran.

The clip concludes with the words “within range” in Hebrew and Arabic.

The video clip also mentioned the Karish field is “90 km away from the Lebanese coast,” which experts say indicates the goal of the resistance movement is to reveal that it's in possession of anti-ship missiles with a range covering the Karish field and the advantage of launching them from tens of kilometers away. Also, military experts say the destructive power of destroying the Israeli platforms and sinking the regime's ships, not only causing damage to them, was highlighted in the video.

The clip also showed the resistance is in possession of advanced monitoring devices and sophisticated thermal

cameras capable of carrying out long-range reconnaissance operations, which constitute an alternative for the need to send drones to monitor. In essence, an alternative to exposing Hezbollah to any contact with the enemy forces in order to gain access to information, as well as any possible losses while maintaining the secret nature of the task.

On Saturday, Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem said “In case the Zionist enemy threatens us, we will stand in front of it like a solid bulwark. No matter what preparations it would make, were are truly more geared up,”

“Everyone knows that Hezbollah facilitates coordination and alignment of standpoints between the resistance front and the government so that Lebanese officials assert the country's rights on a strong footing,” the senior Hezbollah official added.

He noted, “Hezbollah, due to its strong belief in the teachings of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), drove Israeli forces out of southern Lebanon, destroyed Daesh and other Takfiri militant groups, and brandished the flag of truth.”

Military experts say that accurate coordinates, measuring distance, knowing the type of target, and monitoring the nature of the target's movements constitute another major milestone in Hezbollah's military capabilities that is reported to have silenced Israeli media who had no idea Hezbollah would up the ante to this level.

The fact that the video production was on the same day of the naval area monitoring shows an ability to communicate effectively and quickly and send information from a

secret operation area to a secret unit in the resistance, the naval unit, to the design and implementation studio of the Hezbollah military media, and then broadcast it to the media at a sensitive time.

This is carefully planned work that commentators say has surprised the Israeli regime. The implementation of the video clip, should it happen will also be carefully planned and surprising. If there is one thing we have learnt about Hezbollah it's this: just when the movement surprises the enemy, it has more secrets awaiting the enemy. The level of secrecy is delicate but no doubt the working conditions of the Lebanese resistance prevent Israel from understanding its capabilities.

For instance, from revealing the strength of the movement's drones just a few days ago to obtaining images via advanced monitoring devices and sophisticated thermal cameras days later.

The energy supplies that the United States needs for Europe may now force Washington to intervene and pressure the Israelis to avoid any confrontation that would exacerbate already high global tensions and reach an appropriate agreement with the Lebanese.

On Sunday night, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah pointed out that “40 years of difficulties and yet we crossed them all and with time we grew in strength and influence thanks to God”

Regarding the oil and gas in Karish he stressed “there is a historic and golden opportunity to save the country and move people from their humiliation in front of bakeries and elsewhere. This matter needs a risk so let us take that risk, and we are ready to offer ourselves and our loved ones to protect our country and our people, and God has assigned us with this job.”

Yazd: a prime destination for spiritual tourism



From page 1 ► Muharram and the following month, Safar (which includes a commemoration of the aftermath of Karbala) are a period of lamentation for Muslims. War and fighting are prohibited during Muharram and festivities like weddings and birthdays are usually postponed to more appropriate days. People generally wear black out of respect or at least avoid wearing very bright colors.

They say the core meaning of Muharram is beyond such mere bereavement and commemoration of the past. Karbala was an actual and metaphorical venue where the Truth confronted the Lie, where justice spoke vibrant and audible in the face of prejudice, and where courage, passion, and devotion preceded attachment, worldliness, and obstinacy.

The saga is narrated to tell us that compared to the Pyrrhic and momentary victory of injustice, integrity and honesty will always stand the test of time as today the life of Imam Hussein (AS) is honored by millions across the world while the account of his enemies is nearly lost in oblivion. The story also lives to tell us that the majority is not always right. Even if the army of Truth is small, it still is magnanimous in what it stands for.

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Cultural heritage experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system.

Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

The historical core of Yazd is chockful of mudbrick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains. The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can be today traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

Yazd Water Museum is a must-see destination for the ones interested to know about the brave men who built such underground aqueducts in the past. Located in a restored mansion with a visible qanat running underneath, the museum offers its visitors a fascinating glimpse into the hidden world of qanats through a series of photographs, exhibits, and architectural drawings. It represents nearly 2000 years of unique irrigation structure that has been in operation, yet describes the drilling of mother wells and associated underground water networks stretched to the ancient city.

Monsoon floods inflict \$83 million economic toll on Yazd, minister says

TEHRAN—Torrential downpours in the historical core of Yazd have caused some 25 trillion rials (\$83m) in damage, Iran’s tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Monday.

“Losses from the natural catastrophe in the historical core of Yazd totals around 25 trillion rials,” according to the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Dozens of flash floods ravaged 735 mudbrick houses and structures in the ancient oasis city over the past couple of days, the minister said.

Yazd is chock-full of adobe houses, mansions, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

During the last few days, flash flooding in 17 provinces of the country claimed 32 lives and left 25 people missing. Sistan-Baluchestan, Tehran, Fars, Kerman, Hormozgan, Qom, Semnan, Mazandaran, Yazd, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Golestan, Isfahan, Bushehr, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad, Markazi, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari are the provinces ravaged by the heavy rainfalls.

A UNESCO World Heritage, Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its



visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

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Mausoleum, where ‘Napoleon of Persia’ is laid to rest

TEHRAN— Elsewhere in Iran, Nader Shah (August 1688 – 19 June 1747) might be considered someone like a historical tyrant. But here he is a national hero.

He reformed Iran’s military forces and utterly defeated Afghans in a series of brilliant victories, after which he restored Tahmasp to the Iranian throne.

Born Nader Qoli Beg, Nader created an Iranian empire that stretched from the Indus River to the Caucasus Mountains. He is widely considered one of the most powerful rulers in the history of the nation. He assumed power when a period of chaos overwhelmed Iran.

Modern travelers to Mashhad, northeast Iran, may visit Nader’s equestrian statue, which crowns his otherwise dour grey-granite mausoleum. Moreover, there is a small museum displaying guns, a rhino-hide shield, and a carpet portrait of Nader on horseback.

The mausoleum is surmounted by an impressive equestrian statue depicting the monarch holding an ax, the work of renowned Iranian sculptor Abolhassan Sadiqi.

The museum showcases various objects from the introduction of the Afsharay

Nader won the battle and entered Delhi, returning to Iran with vast amounts of loot, including the fabulous Peacock Throne and the Koh-e-Noor Diamond.

Nader endeavored to reunite the Persian realm while repelling invaders. He is sometimes referred to as the Napoleon of Persia or the Second Alexander.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Nader Qoli Beg had an obscure beginning in the Turkish Afshar tribe, which was loyal to the Safavid shahs of Iran. After serving under a local chieftain, Nader formed and led a band of robbers, showing marked powers of leadership.

With the navy he proceeded to build, Nader Shah was able not only to take Bahrain from the Arabs but also to invade and conquer Oman. In February 1739, after capturing several cities of the Mughal Empire of northern India, he moved against the main Mughal armies at Karnal, India. He won the battle and entered Delhi, returning to Iran with vast amounts of loot, including the fabulous Peacock Throne and the Koh-e-Noor Diamond. He then attacked the Uzbeks around the cities of Bukhara and

Khiva; his empire had reached its furthest expansion and rivaled the territorial extent of the ancient Iranian empires.

In 1741, after an assassination attempt on him had failed, Nader Shah suspected his eldest son of complicity and had him blinded. In 1743, Nader Shah again attacked the Ottoman Turks, but revolts in Iran forced him to conclude a truce. He renewed hostilities with the Turks as soon as possible, winning a great victory over them near Yerevan. Peace was concluded in 1746.

Although brilliantly successful as a soldier and general, Nader Shah had little talent for statesmanship or administration, and Iran became utterly exhausted during the later years of his reign.

Tens of thousands of people perished in his ceaseless military campaigns, and the exactions of his tax-gatherers ruined the country’s economy. Nader Shah had always been harsh and ruthless, but these traits became more pronounced as he grew older. His suspiciousness and capricious cruelty continued to grow, and wherever he went, he had people tortured and executed. The consequence was that revolt after revolt against him occurred. In the end, he was assassinated by his own

troops while attempting to crush an uprising in Khorasan. Nader Shah’s only interests were war and conquest. Once, when informed that there was no warfare in paradise, he remarked: “How then can there be any delights there?”

Under tourists’ eyes

Here is a selection of comments on the mausoleum and museum that foreign visitors have already posted to TripAdvisor:

“The East Napoleon”

The tomb of Nader Shah is located in downtown Mashhad. It is designed as a tent because

Nader Shah was always in the way of wars to overbear the revolts. There is also a small museum in the area.

“A great museum”

Nader Shah Afshar, the powerful Iranian king of the earth, has devoted himself to aggressors to regain and expand the borders of his land, his life, and his youth. It was very interesting to see the text there. The Musee Naderi has two halls, the first hall displays various objects from the introduction of the Afsharay period, and the second hall includes a variety of coins, dishes, and other objects from the Safavid to the contemporary period. The war ball belonging to the time of the reign near the



tomb tower is the booty of Iranian men from the Portuguese war. At the Museum of the Arms, weapons of the Afsharian period, rare paintings and scenes of war, horseback riding like the horse saddle from Afshariyah to Qajar era, two rare swords, as well as several manuscripts, including the rare universe history. On the northern corner of Naderi Gardens is the tomb of Colonel Mohammad Taghi Khan Pasayan. He was a late Qajarian soldier and the first Iranian man to complete his graduate training course. He made the design of the stone grave of Mohammad Taghi Khan Persian by Hooshang Seyhoun. (amrov222 from Oslo, Norway)

“So so”

This tomb is located in a small park and there is a small fee to enter. Hardly any people around, so you will have the whole place to yourself and be done in 15 minutes. So, apart from the tomb and a massive statue, there is a museum of sorts. He was one of the more powerful rulers and lived in the 1700s. Ok for a half-hour tour. (SalimM from London)

“A dull, concrete nothing”

Nadir Shah was a very important figure in Persian/Iranian history, and especially important to this part of the country; it’s a great shame that his monument does so little justice to his legacy. (Andrew W from Somerville, the U.S.)

“Great piece of history”

It s one of the monuments you don’t want to miss in Mashhad especially if you are a Persian. It is the tomb of one of the great kings of Persia. (Roxana J from Milan)



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UNICEF commends Iran for promoting breastfeeding

TEHRAN – Robin Nandy, the representative of UNICEF in Iran, has said that granting 9 months of maternity leave to mothers in Iran is admirable, praising the country for promoting breastfeeding.

Nandy made the remarks at the ceremony of “World Breastfeeding Week” at Razi International Conference Hall held on Monday.

During the coronavirus pandemic, breastfeeding infants has ensured food security, improved nutrition in communities, and reduced inequalities, he highlighted.

Pointing out that every dollar invested in breastfeeding has a return of \$35, he noted that in addition to preventing many diseases in children and mothers, breast milk is one of the smartest investments to improve human capital and accelerate economic growth in societies.

Stating that only 44 percent of babies in the world are exclusively breastfed in the first 6 months of



life, he said that breastmilk acts like a child's first vaccine.

Breastfeeding rates in societies with deep gaps between income groups are lower, he further stated.

Appreciating Iran for promoting breast milk, he said that it is necessary to implement family-oriented policies in countries with at least 18 weeks of leave

after childbirth to promote and strengthen breastfeeding.

Iran's decision for granting 9 months of maternity leave to mothers is admirable and UNICEF supports these policies, he highlighted.

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from 1 to 7 August every year.

Iran ranks first in West Asia for breastfeeding of immature new-

born infants, as 11 breast milk banks have been established in the country, the head of the mother's milk bank of Al-Zahra hospital in the northwestern city of Tabriz said in August 2020.

Worldwide, about 600 breast milk banks have been established, with the first established in Austria, he noted, adding that there are currently 210 breast milk banks in Europe and Brazil alone has 210 milk banks.

Iran ranks first in West Asia for breastfeeding of immature newborn infants, as 11 breast milk banks have been established in the country.

Nicaragua seeks to use IRCS experiences

TEHRAN – Issac Lenin Bravo, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Iran, and Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), discussed areas of cooperation.

Measures taken by the IRCS are exemplary in the region and the world, Lenin said, referring to IRCS's great achievements in recent months.

He announced interest in using the experiences of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Fortunately, there are good relations between the two countries, and the cooperation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the two countries can be a turning point, he explained.

Committees have been formed between Iran and Nicaragua to enhance cooperation, he noted, adding, “The IRCS's high capacities are clearly evident and we are interested in using the medical equipment made by the IRCS due to their high quality.”

The Iranian Polyclinic in Nicaragua has provided valuable services to people, which shows the empathy between the two nations, and today the people of Iran and Nicaragua have good and brotherly relations with each

other, which can be expanded, he emphasized.

Kolivand for his part said that we can also cooperate with the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the fields of medical equipment, textiles, pharmaceutical production, and food packages.

Human resource training and education is another important field of cooperation and sharing experience, he stated, adding that in recent years, IRCS forces have faced various incidents and have proudly come out of the assigned missions, so they can cooperate and transfer experiences in dealing with floods and earthquakes.

IRCS services worldwide

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

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was selected as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



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

Moreover, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

Muharram mourning relies on devoted people

By Faranak Bakhtiari

From page 1 ▶ He and his family members were martyred on the 10th day of the month of Muharram in the year 61 AH of the Islamic calendar (680 CE).

This incident has not been a personal incident to serve the interest of a particular individual or group of people; in fact, the event of Karbala and the martyrdom of Hussein bin Ali (AS) and his devout friends are a school with lessons such as truth-seeking, human dignity, self-esteem, devotion, sacrifice, and fight against

oppression and injustice.

Throughout history, the ritual of honoring Tasua and Ashura (the 9th and the 10th) of Muharram as a whole has relied on the people themselves and the devotees of Ahl al-Bayt (AS).

One of the main reasons and mysteries for the long-standing permanence of Muharram events and the repetition of the Ashura ritual every year, in a more magnificent form, depends on the people.

In fact, if the people did not hold

the rituals, and if the Husseinis lovers did not take over the work and service regarding Muharram mourning ceremonies, and only the governments wanted to support what we are witnessing today, nothing would remain of it.

So, Muharram is one of the most spontaneous Islamic movements that remained alive for around 1400 years.

However, Hussein (AS) does not belong to Muslims only. His behavior and lifestyle represent a way of life for all humans who wish to live a prosperous life. It is

in the nature of all human beings who hate oppression and cruelty and would like to stand against it.

He teaches us to have courage and chivalry in life. That is why he faced the army of the enemy on the tenth day of Muharram and said “If you do not believe in any religion and do not fear the resurrection day, at least be free men in this world.” This saying clearly shows that his teachings are not limited to Muslims only, but his way of life can be a role model for all of those who wish to live a humane life.

The key role of nature-based solutions in adapting to climate change in cities

Climate change is one of the most significant environmental problems in the world, which refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.

Some human activities such as burning fossil fuels have caused the production of greenhouse gases and global warming. Researchers predict that the rising temperature and changes in weather patterns will increase more in the future.

According to United Nations reports, the consequences of global warming are intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms, declining biodiversity, etc.

In addition to environmental risks, climate change threatens public health, resulting in forced migrations as well as social and political problems. However, climate change adaptation strategies could reduce the negative impacts and provide new opportunities for taking advantage of them.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Maryam Rezaei Ghaleh, a researcher and expert in the urban landscape, climate change, and environmental health, said that nature-based solutions in urban areas are recognized as a critical strategy against the threats of climate change.

What is climate change adaptation in cities?

Today, half of the world's population lives in cities, and it is predicted that this proportion will increase to 70% by 2050. Cities are more vulnerable to climate change, and these changes might intensify the harmful effects of rapid urbanization and population growth, especially in developing countries.

So, it is necessary to think of a solution to tackle climate change impacts as soon as possible. International organizations have committed many countries to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Along with these mitigation strategies, adaptation strategies are also considered to minimize the adverse effects of climate change, improve urban sustainability, and take advantage of potential opportunities.

Adaptation is a solution for decreasing climate change impacts that are necessary as a complement to mitigation strategies. This approach is not a new topic, and in the past, many societies have developed their cities to mitigate the extremely variable climate conditions effectively. With regard to current situations, we need adaptation strategies more than ever.

What are urban nature-based solutions?

Among adaptation strategies, nature-based solutions have the potential to face the challenges of climate change and urbanization. These solutions play a fundamental role in achieving an integrated, livable, and sustainable city in the future.

Nature-based solutions use the city's natural ecosystems, including urban green and blue infrastructure. They have many benefits while being affordable and accessible. Green Infrastructure includes any public green space in the city, such as urban forests, urban farms and urban gardens, parks, trees in streets, green



roofs, and green walls in buildings.

Besides, blue Infrastructure includes waterways, wetlands, permanent and seasonal rivers, and fountains. As a result, blue and green Infrastructure, the interconnected network of natural and semi-natural areas, is vital for making city and landscape resilient to mitigate climate threats such as reducing the temperature and flood risk.

How can nature-based solutions and green Infrastructure contribute to climate change adaptation?

Climate change, along with the growth of urbanization, has increased the temperature in urban areas. So, the goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit governments from raising the global temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius. Some research works have shown urban green Infrastructure could reduce temperature. Especially, trees and their shade could decrease urban heat more than other vegetation.

Green and blue Infrastructure can provide an opportunity to use floods and adapt to future climate changes. This Infrastructure can manage flash floods, collect flood water, and distribute it simultaneously. Therefore, this system can not only reduce the adverse effects of seasonal floods but also adapt to climate change through drought conditions.

What challenges does the implementation of nature-based solutions face in Iranian cities?

Like other cities worldwide, Iranian cities have been affected by climate change impacts. The main consequences of climate change in Iran are extreme heat, lack of rainfall, and floods. Our country has been in a hot and dry climate, and these conditions are expected to become more severe.

Therefore, the benefits of nature-based solutions for temperature reduction and flood management are valuable for Iranian cities. In the past, there have been many gardens in and around the Iranian cities. Also, the courtyards of houses as small gardens have been distributed in all parts of cities.

But today, with population growth and more construction in cities, most of these gardens and yards have disappeared. Therefore, preserving the remaining urban gardens and using their benefits with correct and integrated urban management and planning is necessary. It is worth mentioning that replacing these trees requires a lot of time, and due to the lack of water, it cannot be easily compensated.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

E-motorbikes come to curb air pollution in metropolises

The first phase of electric motorcycles development project will be implemented aiming at reducing air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises, IRNA news agency reported.

Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Tuesday that electric motorcycles will be promoted in big cities in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Through the first phase of the project, electric motorcycles will replace the regular ones used by the Ministry of Energy and state-run companies, he explained.

Ardakanian went on to say that, in addition to electric motorcycles being manufactured and marketed from now on, existing motorcycles will also change to use electricity sources.

آغاز طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوا

مرحله نخست طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوای تهران و دیگر کلانشهرها آغاز می‌شود. به گزارش ایرنا، رضا اردکانیان وزیر نیرو روز سه شنبه گفت برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با همکاری وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت انجام خواهد شد.

وی افزود: هدف این طرح در گام نخست، برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌های مورد استفاده وزارت نیرو و شرکت‌های دولتی است.

اردکانیان اضافه کرد بر این اساس علاوه بر اینکه از این پس موتورسیکلت برقی تولید و وارد بازار می‌شود، موتورسیکلت‌های موجود نیز برای مالکان آنها برقی می‌شوند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 1

New cases	9,699
New deaths	62
Total cases	7,400,725
Total deaths	142,060
New hospitalized patients	1,672
Patients in critical condition	1,271
Total recovered patients	7,082,240
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,236,102
Doses of vaccine injected	153,263,794

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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
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AUGUST 2, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A fool’s mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wise man’s tongue is under the control of his mind.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:28 Dawn: 4:37 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:14 (tomorrow)

Persian influences on Indian painting

Part 2
For an earlier moment in this Baghdad style we have another copy of Kalila wa Demna of 1265-80, discovered in the Royal Library of Rabat.

The work of artists trained in the Baghdad style of the last third of the 13th century has now been established, and it bears no stylistic resemblance to the miniatures in the three Small Shahnamehs.

As the provenances of major groups of early 14th-century Persian miniature paintings are now known (at Shiraz, Isfahan, and the Mongol capitals at Baghdad, Maragha, and Tabriz), it becomes even more probable that the Small Shahnameh manuscripts were made in a distant provincial center.

Persian motifs in Jain manuscripts: By the last quarter of the 14th century representations of Shahi, the king of the Sakas of Sakastan, the area of modern Sistan, and his soldiers appear in West Indian manuscripts of the Kalakacarya-katha, a Jain text often appended to copies of the Kalpasutra.

The story concerns a Jain monk Kalaka, who seeks aid from the Sakas. For illustrations of this story, new models for the foreign king—his pose of royal ease, his throne, clothing, and crown—had to be found, and the prototypes for this imagery have confused scholars.

Douglas Barrett and Basil Gray, writing in 1963, argued that representation of the Shahi was probably due to the influence of Mamluk painting of Egypt and Syria, with whom Gujarat was closely connected by trade.

Greater publication of Mamluk miniatures in the intervening forty years makes this assertion questionable. When pictures of enthroned kings from a Bahri Mamluk manuscript of Kalila wa Demna of 1354 kept in the Bodleian Library of Oxford University are compared to the Saka kings shown in a palm-leaf illustration of the Kalpasutra-Kalakakatha of 1439 V.S./1382 CE and in a paper manuscript of this work of about 1400 in the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, many significant differences become evident.

Although representations of the kings are shown in profile sitting at royal ease with one pendent foot, as in the case of the Shahi illustration, similarities end here.

In the Mamluk manuscript, kings wear large, wide crowns based on degenerate Sassanid winged crowns; the Shahi in the early Indian illustrations wear a very unusual crown consisting of a circular band that may either surround the head or sit on top of it and ornamented with three vertical points.

The Shahi's coat has a prominent "cloud collar," a feature not found on Mamluk garments. The textile pattern most often found on Mamluk robes is the so-called scroll-fold, a design somewhat resembling watered-silk; this pattern never appears on the Shahi's garments.

Instead, the Shahi's garments and throne covers have a pattern of fan-shaped flowers with seven petals encircled by vines, which again shows no relationship between Mamluk and Jain textile designs.

Finally, Mamluk thrones have a flat top with projecting side finials, while the early Shahi thrones have rounded, scalloped backs that extend well above the king's head, with paired lance points projecting from either side; and, in the Prince of Wale Museum representation, the throne is supported by gold "lions" (in fact spotted leopards).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued.

Nasir Heidarian takes baton in Tehran Symphony Orchestra

TEHRAN – Nasir Heidarian has been selected as the conductor of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

In a press release published on Sunday, the Rudaki Foundation, which manages the orchestra, said that Heidarian will hold the position for one year.

He is a graduate of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz and has previously worked as a trombonist with the orchestra, which also performed several concerts under the baton of Heidarian as a guest conductor in 2015.

Former conductor Shahrzad Rohani quit in May 2020 after the Rudaki Foundation said that he was suffering from heart disease.

Over the past two years, the orchestra has worked with guest conductors in several performances, the latest of which was on May 5 under the baton of German maestro Wolfgang Wengenroth.

The appointment of Heidarian was also announced during a press conference maestro Majid Entezami held to brief the media about his collaboration with the National Orchestra in several concerts entitled "Along with Memories".

Entezami is scheduled to conduct the National Orchestra in the concerts, which will be performed to commemorate the anniversary of the

Maestros Nasir Heidarian (L) and Majid Entezami attend a press conference at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on July 31, 2022 to brief the media about the National Orchestra's concerts in September. (Honaronline/Raha Ahmadi)

start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in September.

However, the orchestra will do its rehearsals with Heidarian.

"Due to the physical problems I'm suffering from, Mr. Heidarian will be helping me," Entezami said, and added, "He will prepare the orchestra for the performances and will join them in the rehearsals."

Entezami's scores for the movies "Kanimanga" and "A Place to Live" and the TV series "The Men of Angelos" and "Sheikh Bahai" will be performed during the concerts.

"The Story of Khorramshahr" is another piece the orchestra will perform. Entezami composed the music in the 1980s to celebrate the liberation of Khorramshahr, the southwestern Iranian city which

was captured by Iraqi forces for about two years.

"The composition consists of seven parts, each has its own unique story," Entezami said.

"The piece features Khorramshahr as a peaceful city, which is seized by Iraqis. People begin fighting against the invaders and liberate the city," he added.

"The Wayfarer" wins grand prix at Constantine's Gold Coin film festival

A scene from the Iranian animated movie "The Wayfarer".

From Page 1 ► present the dream world, the real-life world and the daydreaming world. It is really an enormous challenge to plan the

transitions of linking up those 3 different worlds together.

Second prize was given to "Urban Goat" by Russian director Svetlana Razguliaeva.

The story of the film is set in rural Siberia, where the only entertainments are an airfield and a disco in the village club. Against this backdrop, the Goat from the city arrives to go to work. In such a small village, she immediately attracts the attention of men, but the Goat herself cannot take her eyes off the blunt, but oh so manly Wolf. In her fantasies, the Goat paints a rosy picture of their life together, but the reality bites.

The Chinese film "Step into the River" by Weijia Ma took third place.

The film follows Lu and Wei, who live in a village in rural China. They often go to the nearby river to play with their fathers. The river has a special meaning for them because China's one-child policy has led some parents to drown their newborns there.

In the student category, "The Child and the Goose" won first prize.

The animated movie has been directed by the French students Jade Chastan, Alice Faila, Jerome Ginesta, Justine Hermetz, Sophie Lafleur and Vincent Lenne.

It is about a child and a goose that become friends and find themselves embarking on a journey of adventure and freedom.

"Violent Entrepreneurs" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "Violent Entrepreneurs: The Use of Force in the Making of Russian Capitalism" by Vadim Volkov of the European University at St. Petersburg has been published in Persian.

The book originally published in 2002 has been translated by Damun Afzali. Ney is the publisher of the Persian edition.

Entering the shady world of what he calls "violent entrepreneurship", Volkov explores the economic uses of violence and coercion in Russia in the 1990s.

Violence has played, he shows, a crucial role in creating the institutions of a new market economy.

Front cover of the Persian edition of Vadim Volkov's book "Violent Entrepreneurs".

The core of his work is competition among so-called violence-managing

agencies – criminal groups, private security services, private protection companies, and informal protective agencies associated with the state – which multiplied with the liberal reforms of the early 1990s.

This competition provides an unusual window on the dynamics of state formation.

"Violent Entrepreneurs" is remarkable for its research. Volkov conducted numerous interviews with members of criminal groups, heads of protection companies, law enforcement employees and business people.

He bases his findings on journalistic and anecdotal evidence as well as on his own personal

observation.

Volkov investigates the making of violence-prone groups in sports clubs (particularly martial arts clubs), associations for veterans of the Soviet-Afghan war, ethnic gangs and regionally based social groups, and he traces the changes in their activities over the decade.

Some groups wore state uniforms and others did not, but all of their members spoke and acted essentially in the same manner and were engaged in the same activities: intimidation, protection, information gathering, dispute management, contract enforcement and taxation. Each group controlled the same resource-organized violence.

Fateme Rahbar: Don't call Babak the Luxury Martyr; he was a human being as well

An interview with the author of the book "Twenty-Seven Days and a Smile"

Martyr Babak Nouri Heris is one of the martyrs who defended Hazrat Zeinab's shrine and is well-known among today's generation. The book "Twenty-Seven Days and One Smile," written by Fateme Rahbar and published by Khate Moqadam, is a biography of him.

Rahbar is from Bandar Anzali and is one of Babak Nouri's fellow citizens. Since 2005, she has worked in the fields of poetry and fiction, and "Twenty-Seven Days and a Smile" is her first book to be published.

* What prompted you to agree to write this book?

Before this, I had never considered writing martyr life stories because I believed that this work required education and expertise, which I lacked, but in 2017, I was selected for this work by the Tehran Art Bureau as part of a process.

* Did you previously know Marty Nouri?

The truth is that all I knew about Babak came from photos of him—that he was a handsome

young man who went to Syria and was killed there. I didn't have further information about him.

* Did you encounter any significant obstacles while writing this book?

Unfortunately, I was confronted with a lack of information from the start. His mother is a sweet and quiet woman. I expected her to tell me a lot about Babak's childhood, but she didn't. Not that she didn't want to; some people are natural storytellers, while others are not. Even if she remembered something, she couldn't tell us about it in a story form. As a result, I knew little about Babak's childhood.

* Given that the book has been out for a while, have the martyr's family or readers provided you with any specific feedback?

As you pointed out, since many people haven't yet read the book, it's too early to receive feedback. But thank God, I've heard nothing but good things from his friends and even random strangers. Many readers have expressed their enjoyment of the book. They claim that reading this book made them feel good even though

they were familiar with Babak's life.

Another thing I'd like to say is that I find it sad that some people only like Babak because of his good looks. Although this is a plus, Babak possessed far superior qualities for which he should be remembered. It would be preferable if this martyr was remembered and admired for his humanity rather than his attractiveness.