

The Woes America Left Behind in Afghanistan

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Interview

Taekwondo practitioner Kiani pleased with her performance

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iranian taekwondo practitioner Nahid Kiani is happy with her performance at the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games, where she won the gold medal in the women's 53kg.

Kiani defeated Moroccan taekwondo athlete Oumaima El Bouchti 2-0 in the final match of the women's 53kg and defended her title in Konya, Turkey.

"The competitions had a high level and were so intensive," Kiani said in her exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

"Turkey is one of the world powers in taekwondo, and they had representatives in all the weight classes. In my weight category, the Uzbek opponent had played in the Olympics and is number one in the world ranking. Also, Morocco has made great progress in the recent years, and their athletes were finalists in the most weight classes, including in the 53kg," she added.

"I competed with good rivals in the Games. The Saudi opponent had won the bronze medal in Asia a month before, and she was a good rival. I can say that she challenged me more than any opponents. And, also my Uzbek opponent, who was so strong and experienced.

"That's why I am satisfied with my performance. I defeated great opponents, and in most of the matches, except for one, I emerged victorious in two rounds," said the 24-year-old taekwondo practitioner. ► Page 3

Report

Vienna talks at "now or never" stage

TEHRAN— Speaking with foreign policy journalists on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister informed the press about crucial issues surrounding the Vienna talks intended to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

"We will submit our final conclusion in black and white to the European Union coordinator by 00:00 this night. If the U.S. response is realistic and flexible, a deal will be made. If the U.S. doesn't show flexibility, then we should talk further," Amir Abdollahian said on the sidelines of a ceremony to commemorate Iran's Day of Correspondent.

However, Iran's top diplomat reiterated that if an agreement is not reached, the world will not end.

He added, "We are exchanging messages with the U.S. on three issues and we will announce our latest comments in the coming days. We told America that if our opinions on these three issues, which are reasonable opinions, are respected, we are ready to enter the stage of announcing an agreement and hold a conclusion meeting with the presence of the foreign ministers in Vienna."

The Iranian foreign minister underlined the need for the U.S. to show flexibility, saying that Iran has already demonstrated a great deal of flexibility and that now it's the U.S.'s turn to follow suit.

"America knows very well how much flexibility we have shown, now it is the turn of the American side to be flexible. In the recent Vienna negotiations, the American side expressed its verbal flexibility on two issues. This should be in writing. ► Page 2



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Monday that Iran will submit its conclusion on the talks in Vienna to the European Union by Monday midnight.

Speaking to reporters on Monday at the sidelines of a ceremony for commemorating Iran's Day of Correspondent, Amir Abdollahi-

an said, "We will submit our final conclusion in black and white to the EU coordinator by 00:00 this night. If the U.S. response is realistic and flexible, a deal will be made. If the U.S. doesn't show flexibility, then we should talk further."

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IRISL transports 3,000t of goods along INSTC in 2 months

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has transported 3,000 tons of goods as well as 114 TEUs of container commodities along the International North South Corridor (INSTC) over the past two Iranian calendar months (May 22-July 23).

As IRNA reported, IRISL formed an operational

working group for the development of transportation along INSTC in early April and the company has so far allocated 300 vessels to the transportation of goods through this corridor.

The north-south corridor was primarily launched with the aim of transiting goods between India and Europe through Iran; however, it remained in the ear-

ly stages of execution for many years.

The conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and the special geopolitical situation of Iran in the region have once again laid a suitable ground for the revival of the mentioned corridor; so, this has created a great business opportunity for the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international stage. ► Page 4

TPO inks co-op MOU with Mauritius' EDB

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mauritius' Economic Development Board (EDB) to cooperate on facilitating economic exchanges between the two countries.

The MOU was signed on Sunday on the sidelines of an Iran-Mauritius business forum held at the convention hall of Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, the TPO portal reported.

The event was attended by senior officials from the two countries including Mauritius' Minister of Labor, Human Resource Development and Training Soodesh Satkam Callichurn, Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in Mauritius Hassan Ali Bakhshi, Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad-Sadeq Mofateh, and Director-General of TPO's Africa Office Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadza-deh. ► Page 4



Christians celebrate the Blessing of Grapes

St. Sarkis Church in Tehran hosted the Blessing of Grapes ceremony on Sunday, August 14.

The 15th of August is the feast day of the Assumption of Saint Mary. The Christians of Iran celebrate this feast together with the Blessing of Grapes on a Sunday close to August 15.

'Samen underground city is a unique tourist attraction'

TEHRAN – The underground city of Samen in Malayer, Hamedan province, has a unique structure and is a top tourist attraction, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Because of the existence of human skeletons and its granite stone structure, the underground city of Samen can be considered a unique attraction of the region, CHTN quoted Ali Khaksar as saying on Sunday.

It should also be noted that most troglodytes across the world were built in a bed

of alluvial stones, sandstone, and clay, and digging them was not very hard, while the Samen underground city was built in a stone bed and is between three and five hectares in size, he explained.

Despite the lack of certainty about its age, the fact that the underground city was created on stone beds makes it likely that it dates to before the Parthian period (247 BC – 224 CE), he mentioned.

Originally a Parthian city, the core of the city

has been extended throughout history and served primarily as a cemetery, he stated.

A total of 80 rooms and 60 human skeletons have been discovered in the underground city so far, along with pottery, copper vessels, and agate seals, the official added.

Human skeletons were severely eroding, so they were handed to the cultural heritage expert, who will research, document, and restore them before putting them on display, he noted. ► Page 6

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Iranian team wins medals at IOI 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian students won two gold medals, one silver medal, and an honorary diploma at the 34th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2022).

The competition was hosted by Indonesia from August 7 to 15, as the most prestigious computer science competition for secondary school and high school students around the world.

Alireza Kaviani and Kousha Mousavi won a gold medal, Alireza Samimi grabbed a silver medal and Aria Hemmati received an honorary diploma.

Some 90 countries participated in IOI 2022, and the Iranian team ranked ninth place in the world.

The competition is one of five international science Olympiads held annually.

In the 33rd International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2021) held in Singapore, Iran ranked 7th among the participating countries by winning one gold medal and 3 silver medals.

More success in international competitions

The students of the Sharif University of Technology won three gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal in the 29th International Mathematical Competition (IMC 2022).

Iranian students also grabbed four gold medals at the 33rd International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2022), ranking first in the world.

The national physics Olympiad team also won 2 silver and 3 bronze medals in the International Physics Olympiad 2022, held online from July 11 to 14 and hosted by Switzerland. ► Page 7

Director of Cinema Organization of Iran to visit Russia

TEHRAN – Director of the Cinema Organization of Iran, Mohammad Khazaei, will visit Russia to discuss the expansion of ties on film industry.

The three-day visit will be made at the invitation of Russia's Deputy Culture Minister, Alla Manilova, the organization announced on Sunday.

Plans to work on joint film projects, distribution and marketing of Iranian films will be negotiated during the visit, the time of which has not been specified.

Plans are for Khazaei to hold meetings with directors of several Russian organizations, including the State Central Film Museum, NTV, Central Partnership film distribution and production company, Russian State Film and Photo Archive and the Cinema Foundation of Russia.

"In its new period of activities, Iran has adopted new policies to exploit the great markets of the region and their potentialities in order to develop its local cinema," the Cinema Organization of Iran said. ► Page 8

Vienna talks at “now or never” stage

From page 1 ► In the third issue and guarantees, we must have America's flexibility. If America shows flexibility, we will reach a point of agreement in the coming days.”

Amir Abdollahian also spoke of Iran's plan B. “They talk about Plan B, but we also have our Plan B. At the end of the day, I believe that all issues should be resolved through negotiations.”

He then went on to note that the differences could be resolved if all sides adopt a realistic approach.

The comments immediately went viral and attracted the attention of several political analysts, as well as officials involved in the negotiations process.

Russia's top negotiator Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted “Encouraging signals from Tehran.”

He then went on to note that Russia has never been an obstacle to the JCPOA revival and will never be.

“#Russia never was and will not be an obstacle on the way towards restoration of the #JCPOA,” Ulyanov tweeted.

He further continued, “The text on the table was elaborated by all participants in the #ViennaTalks. The #EU introduced on August 8 just a few amendments to it.”

Laurence Norman, a correspondent for The Wall Street Journal claimed on Twitter, “A source suggests that what Iran wants is a guarantee that sanctions on some entities/sectors won't spillover into stopping trade/transactions in others.”

The Vienna talks are at a crucial stage. Critical days are ahead of both Iran, the U.S. and P4+1. Although the West claims that the possibility of further negotiations seems to be exhausted by all sides, it seems that Iran is ready to hold further talks. A breakthrough could still be reached any minute.

In this regard, the Tehran Times has learned that an extraordinary meeting was held at President Ebrahim Raisi's office on Monday morning to review the EU proposals and Iran's final response. The meeting was chaired by President Raisi and several cabinet ministers, including Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian.

After the meeting, Mohammad Jamshidi, director of the presidential office for political affairs, tweeted, “U.S. has retreated from the strategic goal of Maximum Pressure policy to force Iran to concede its legitimate defense & regional policy and to permanently give up sovereign nuclear rights. This was rigorously pursued after exiting the JCPOA & imposing inhumane sanctions on Iranians.”

U.S. pushed Afghanistan into destruction during 20 years: Iran’s special envoy

TEHRAN- The Iranian president's special envoy on Afghanistan affairs, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, has underlined that Americans occupied Afghanistan for 20 years and drove it toward oblivion by destroying all its infrastructure.

Kazemi Qomi made the comments during an interview the national TV when asked about the impacts of the American troops' 20-year presence in Afghanistan.

August 15 marked the first anniversary of the capture of the capital Kabul by the Taliban, which forced the American military forces and diplomats flee the country in a scandalous and hurried way.

Kazemi Qomi added that the U.S. spy services are still operating in Afghanistan, and they continue to cause harm under a variety of circumstances.

“The Americans occupied that country for 20 years and pushed it towards destruction and extinction of its infrastructures,” he lamented.

The special envoy went on to highlight that “they resorted to mass murder of civilians and brought to power an incompetent government. Besides financial corruption in that government, the Americans did not even permit a professional and strong army take shape in Afghanistan.”

The official emphasized that this indicates how reliant the government and army were on Americans to establish their legitimacy.

Kazemi Qomi underlined, for instance, that American actions were a major source of insecurity in Afghanistan.

For example, he said, one was often hearing

The tweet was interpreted as a glimpse of hope towards reviving the JCPOA. Nevertheless, Amir Abdollahian's remarks along with Jamshidi's recent tweet have created a passion among journalists and political analysts that a deal could soon be signed in Vienna.

According to the foreign minister, a draft of the EU proposal was submitted to the parliament, and the MPs were not entirely happy. However, Amir Abdollahian said a deal could not satisfy everyone.

“We had two texts. One was entirely in our favor and was 100% Iranian, and the other one contained the views of seven countries. Those who have negotiated know that one has to sacrifice some things to gain concessions,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

“I was in the Majlis (parliament) last week and they said that they saw the draft and it has flaws, but I will say from now on that if we reach an agreement tomorrow, if someone carefully goes over the text, the text we wrote will have flaws, but the flaws come from the fact that our opposite side of the negotiations also has demands. We cannot say that what you say is not true and your words are not acceptable to us. The text we have may have the same flaws as the JCPOA. This is due to the nature of negotiation,” he stated.

Meanwhile, on Monday afternoon, Nour News, a media close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), announced that the security body held an extraordinary meeting. The meeting was chaired by Raisi, Nour News reported.

“In the extraordinary session of the Supreme National Security Council, which was chaired by President Raisi, an extensive report was presented to the members of the council by Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's chief negotiator regarding the sanctions removal talks,” it reported.

In the meeting, the report added, Bagher Kani gave full and detailed explanations about the content of the ideas proposed by Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator for the talks. He also elaborated on the process of the recent round of talks in Vienna, which lasted for 5 days.

“Based on the determined strategies, ending the political claims related to Safeguards issues and creating the necessary guarantees to ensure the sustainability of Iran's economic benefit from the agreement has been the focus of the negotiating team's agenda in Vienna,” Nour News quoted Bagheri Kani as saying.

As of writing this article, Iran's final response to the EU proposal is being written.



that bomb explosions hitting wedding ceremonies.

“They opened the ground for the admission of the terrorist groups into Afghanistan and that was clearly one of the terrible deeds of the Americans over those 20 years.”

He continued by saying that Americans were also performing very poorly in cultural and social spheres.

“In a country with a religious and traditional society, they kept on promoting quite a liberal culture. Of course a broad majority in the society did not yield to such moves. They also promoted the drug abuse secretly. When the Americans arrived narcotic drugs production in Afghanistan was around 200 tons, which was of course 2,000 tons a year before that. But during the Americans' presence it reached 10,000 tons,” he remarked.

Kazemi Qomi concluded that despite the fact that the puppy flower plantation had always been high and the number of drug users had historically been quite low, Afghanistan was now home to a sizable community of drug addicts. However, over those 20 years, around 10% of Afghans were drug user, he stated.

Iran rejects any links with Salman Rushdie’s attacker

TEHRAN— Iran on Monday denied any link to the stabbing of Salman Rushdie, a British author famous for his blasphemous views about Islam.

“Regarding the attack on Salman Rushdie, we do not consider anyone other than [Rushdie] and his supporters worth of blame and even condemnation,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in his weekly news briefing, marking the country's first public reaction to the incident.

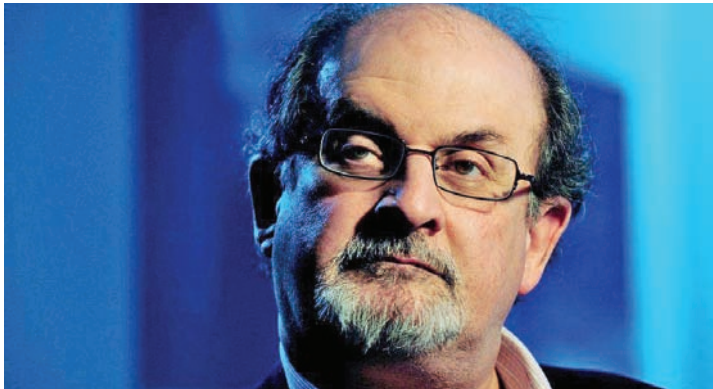
“We have not seen anything about the individual who carried out this act beyond what we've seen from the U.S. media,” Kanaani stated.

He then stated, “We categorically and seriously deny any connection of the assailant with Iran.”

Rushdie was attacked on Friday before a scheduled lecture in western New York on Friday.

Rushdie was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey man. Police said the motive was unclear.

The assailant stabbed him in the



abdomen and the neck, the police and witnesses said.

Rushdie's fiction book, “The Satanic Verses”, released in September 1988. It was one of the most divisive works in recent literary history. It sparked violent and irate protests all around the world.

The book has been prohibited in Iran, India, Bangladesh, Sudan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Thailand, Tanzania, Indonesia, Singapore, Venezuela, and Pakistan.

Rushdie referred to Prophet Muhammad in his book as

“Mahound,” a disparaging epithet given to the Prophet by early crusaders that meant “devil” or “false prophet.”

In 1990, he issued a statement claiming he had renewed his Muslim faith, repudiated the attacks on Islam made by characters in his novel, and was committed to working for better understanding of the religion around the world in the “hope that it would reduce the threat of Muslims acting on the fatwa to kill him.” Rushdie later admitted that he was “pretending.”

Deal in Vienna close provided that Iran’s national interests are honored: Tehran

TEHRAN— Iran and its negotiation partners are close to restoring the 2015 nuclear deal provided that Tehran's redlines and fundamental interests are respected, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani told a regular a press conference on Monday.

Conversations have been and are being held at the highest levels in Tehran, according to the spokesman, referring to consultations on the European Union's latest proposal for reviving the 2015 nuclear deal and lifting anti-Iran sanctions.

When asked if a deal might be reached in Vienna, Kanaani stated that discussions for lifting anti-Iran sanctions are still underway.

“We continue negotiations, which began in Vienna, then in Doha, and most recently in Vienna again,” the diplomat said. “As you know, the negotiating team took part in the talks to reach a good and enduring deal to pave the way for the lifting of anti-Iran harsh sanctions.”

“We had intensive conversations and made some progress” in Vienna which ended on August 8, Kanaani said.

There has been some significant progress, but it has not been able to totally secure Iran's legal demands, he said, adding that Iran has additional expectations from the other side and feels that all of its interests should be addressed.

He added conversations are taking place in the capitals whose countries are party to the JCPOA as well as the U.S. which its former administration ditched in 2018, he said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir

Abdollahian announced on Monday that Iran will submit its conclusion on the talks in Vienna to the European Union by Monday midnight.

Iran renews call for inclusive government in Afghanistan

Kanaani also pointed to the first anniversary of U.S. troop pullout from Afghanistan, stating that the American invasion of Afghanistan resulted in nothing except destruction.

He went on to say that a government comprising all tribes as well as ethnic and political groups can bring stability, tranquility, and security to the war-torn Afghanistan. The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran has supported development of a popular and inclusive administration in neighboring Afghanistan.

Tehran praises growing ties with Kuwait

Kanaani also said it is a significant achievement that Kuwaiti has sent ambassador to Tehran after six years, saying it will reinforce friendly relations and help upgrade collaborations based on mutual respect.

The sending of the new ambassador to Iran can pave the way for further cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the littoral states on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, the spokesman remarked.

Iran urges Saudi media to avoid publishing insulting cartoons

In response to a disparaging cartoon of the late Imam Khomeini in Saudi media, Kanaani

stated that the Islamic Republic expects Saudi brothers to avoid such offensive activities and work toward resuming an official relationship because sacrilege of Imam Khomeini is unforgivable.

Tehran urges Argentina to release Iranian nationals

The spokesman also referred to the confiscation of a plane in Argentina, saying the plane belongs to Venezuela because it was sold to Caracas under international mechanisms, including the laws of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), therefore claims by the U.S. that the plane is owned by Iran is unfounded.

The spokesman went on to say that the release of five Iranians crew of the plane is critical for his country, saying they have been detained for roughly 80 days despite the fact that they have done nothing wrong.

An Argentine judge has repeatedly extended the trial procedure, he lamented.

Iran demands South Korea to release frozen assets

Kanaani also urged South Korea to unfreeze Iran's assets, stating that Tehran's money had nothing to do with the JCPOA and that the Korean government is expected to release the money as soon as feasible.

He went on to say that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani is still negotiating with his Korean counterpart to free Iran's frozen assets.

Nuclear chief: Balance and deterrence in JCPOA talks have been strengthened

TEHRAN— Iran's nuclear chief believes that balance and deterrence have been strengthened during the nuclear deal revival talks.

Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Monday that nuclear fuel cycle and the nuclear technology are considered part of a country's power, ISNA said in a report.

“Over the past 25 years, the Leader of the (Islamic) Revolution

has repeatedly emphasized this issue, as well as the development of nuclear technology,” Eslami noted.

Fortunately, in these years, the nuclear chief noted, through the cooperation and efforts of the AEOI staff, as well as the Strategic Law on Lifting Sanctions, balance and deterrence in the JCPOA negotiations have been strengthened.

“We demand a return to (JCPOA) commitments and the lifting of

sanctions,” he added.

To have a consistent plan, Eslami said, the AEOI has prepared and approved a comprehensive strategic document and taken great steps to develop nuclear activities.

The comments came as Iran is preparing a final draft of its assessment of the EU proposal by the end of Monday.

Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani briefed the Supreme

something.”

“The enemy has focused on the psychological warfare (soft war) after seeing that it is unable to wage a war in the hard field,” the military official continued.

Back in mid-July, Shekarchi warned the U.S. and the Israeli regime against making any adventurist moves in the region and emphasized that they would pay a steep price even for the smallest error.

His comments were in response to U.S. President Joe Biden's statement that, if necessary, the U.S. will “resort to force” against Iran during his recent trip to West Asia.

This remark by the embattled American president and the Israeli officials was referred to

by Shekarchi as a psychological battle as well as a hallucination.

Additionally, he counseled the Americans and the Zionists to keep an eye on the situation in the area and throughout the world and to look back at the past in order to properly predict the future.

Tehran has developed a variety of cutting-edge missiles to boost its ability to deter and defend itself.

Iran has regularly warned the U.S. and Israel about a catastrophic retaliation should they make a military adventure against Iran. Iranian officials have been insisting that the Islamic Republic doesn't compromise on its national security and assert that Washington and Tel Aviv are well aware of Tehran's capabilities.

Iran calls on Iraqi factions to respect constitution, legal institutions

‘We call on all Iraq’s political factions to respect the constitution as a national charter’

TEHRAN – Iran on Monday called on Iraqi political factions to respect Iraq’s constitution and legal institutions amid political mutiny in the country.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said developments in Iraq are important to Iran and that Tehran is undertaking efforts to close the gap between Iraq’s political factions.

Speaking at a regular press conference, Kanaani said, “Iraq’s issues are important to us and we closely and meticulously follow this country’s developments. We are trying to help bring the views of this country’s political parties closer together through [our] positive and constructive contacts with Iraq’s various political factions.”

He added, “We call on all Iraq’s



political factions to respect the country’s constitution as a national charter and safeguard the legal institutions of the country.”

Kanaani noted that calm and stability in Iraq can be achieved through consensus among the

political factions. “Communication with Iraqi friends and brothers is continuous and we have never been disconnected and separated. It is done through the Iranian embassy in Baghdad and the exchange of delegations, and this positive and constructive communication exists,” he stated.

Iraq has been racked by demonstrations and sit-ins over the last few months. Since the October 2021 parliamentary elections, no political factions have been able to put together a government. And the deadlock over government formation has resulted in an acute political polarization.

The Sadrist movement led by cleric Muqtada Sadr has ordered its lawmakers to resign, a move that further complicated the situation in a country already suffering from political disagreements and lack of national consensus.

Sadr has called on his followers to hold demonstrations across Iraq on Saturday in what he calls the “last opportunity.” On the other side, Sadr rivals have also moved to hold their own demonstrations.

Resistance discourse only way to overcome problems in Muslim world: Raisi

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has said that the discourse of resistance in the only way to solve the problems facing the Islamic world.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Raisi said, “Only with brave resistance and standing can the free nations of the region force the arrogant to retreat,” according to a readout of the meeting put out by the official website of the presidency.

Pointing to August 14 as the day of Islamic resistance in national calendar and upholding the sublime concept of resistance, he said, “Historical experience tells us that the nations of the world, wherever they are faced with dominance and arrogance, took the path of resistance and standing and they achieved dignity and independence.”

President Raisi considered the discourse of resistance to be the only effective way to overcome the issues of the Islamic world, especially the issue of Palestine.

He also honored the names and memory of the great leaders of the resistance, including Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and General Hossein Hamedani. “The people of Iran and all freedom fighters in the region and the world are grateful for the bravery of the commanders and fighters of the resistance,” the president pointed out.

Raisi also described “popularity” as the main goal of his administration, saying, “Being popular and focusing on justice as the main discourse of the government need a detailed explanation. The society should know what it means to be popular in economy, politics,

culture and other fields and which functional components it carries.”

Emphasizing the need to tap the capacity of non-governmental organizations in the administration, the president added, “Today, many organizations, foundations and trusted figures of the people who are active in various social fields are ready to help the government, and their abilities and capacities should not be underestimated in improving services to individuals and the society.”

Ayatollah Raisi went on to say that jihadist volunteer groups can be effective in different stages and take a big burden off the shoulders of the government and statesmen.

The need to explain the achievements of the government while nearing the first anniversary of the establishment of his Popular Administration was another important focus of the president’s speech in the cabinet meeting.

Ayatollah Raisi called continuous communication with the people, use of media capacity and presenting accurate and complete information as complementary steps to the policies and measures of his administration, saying it is an “unforgivable lesson” that in such a situation the enemies and ill-wishers, with the help of media tools and false news, are looking for negation of the effectiveness of the Islamic system.

“All institutions must establish effective communication with the people and continuously convey their actions and achievements,” he said.

Iran submits final conclusion on Vienna talks to EU

From Page 1 ► The Iranian foreign minister underlined the need for the U.S. to show flexibility, saying that Iran has already demonstrated a great deal of flexibility and that now it’s the U.S.’s turn to follow suit.

He said, “America knows very well how much flexibility we have shown, now it is the turn of the American side to be flexible. In the recent Vienna negotiations, the American side expressed its verbal

flexibility on two issues. This should be in writing. In the third issue and guarantees, we must have America’s flexibility. If America shows flexibility, we will reach a point of agreement in the coming days.”

Amir Abdollahian also spoke of Iran’s plan B. “They talk about Plan B, but we also have our Plan B. This issue should be resolved through negotiations.”

The woes America left behind in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Last year this month, Army Major General Christopher T. Donahue went down in history as the last American soldier to depart Afghanistan. He boarded a C-17 at Kabul Airport under cover of night in what has been widely seen as another Saigon moment.

After two decades of occupation, the U.S. escaped Afghanistan, leaving behind a country lacking almost every critical infrastructure needed to improve the lives of the Afghan people. While the U.S. troops were still in the midst of packing their stuff at Kabul airport, Taliban fighters easily took over Kabul, turning back the clock 20 years. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan two decades ago to overthrow the Taliban but after 20 years of occupation they handed over Kabul to its old, turbaned rulers.

Over the course of its occupation of Afghanistan, the U.S. spent billions of dollars to install an American-allied government in Kabul. Despite America’s spent blood and treasure, the Kabul government collapsed in no time and nothing was left of what Americans had long sought to nurture there.

However, the Americans had the luxury of being able to escape. This was while millions of Afghans had to grapple with a litany of problems in their own country that primarily sprang from the occupation, with no other



place to flee to.

“The people of Afghanistan have always suffered from the presence of foreign forces, including the American military, in their country for the past 20 years,” Hamid Karzai, the former president of Afghanistan, said in a recent interview. “The American military presence has not only not benefited the people, but the people of Afghanistan have always suffered from the presence of foreign countries, including the United States, although these countries have also provided services during the past 20 years, which is good for this reason.”

Over the occupation years, Afghanistan has suffered from underdevelopment of infrastructure. Hassan Kazemi Qomi, the Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan, has unveiled part of that backwardness in a recent interview. “Today, the production of

electricity in Afghanistan is 300 megawatts, and the distribution of electricity is between 700 and 1000 megawatts which are supplied by neighboring countries,” Kazemi Qomi said, noting that “under these circumstances, this country will not have industries and services.”

He continued, “This is what the Americans have done.”

He added, “Undoubtedly, the Americans failed in Afghanistan and this failure is due to several reasons. In the beginning, there were struggles that the Mujahideen, including the Taliban, did against them, this is a fact. The second issue, which was more important, was the issue of people’s distrust of the Americans. And the third issue was the Americans’ disregard for society’s norms, including cultural issues and Afghanistan’s national interests.”

A year after the U.S. withdrawal, Afghanistan still has to cope with the legacy of the United States war. Since last year, the U.S. has refrained from any financial assistance to the Afghan people. According to the Wall Street Journal, the Biden administration has decided not to release any of the roughly \$7 billion in foreign assets held by Afghanistan’s central bank on U.S. soil and has suspended talks with the Taliban over the funds after the recent killing of al Qaeda’s leader in Kabul.

IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 16, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Taekwondo practitioner Kiani pleased with her performance

From Page 1 ► When asked about her plans, Kiani answered: “All these paths that we take and these competitions that we participate in are one step towards the 2024 Paris Olympics.

“The long-term plan for all athletes in all sports is Olympic Games, and it’s the same for me. I am thinking about winning a medal in the Olympics, and I am moving forward step by step towards this goal,” she said.

“As the short-term plan, I want to win a medal at the Paris World Taekwondo Grand Prix that will be held next week. After that, we have world and Asian competitions,” Kiani added.

“I would like to thank the technical staff of the women’s national team, who had a great impact on this success and worked hard for us,” Kiani concluded.

Esteghlal complete signing of Mohammad Mohebi

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club officially completed signing of Iranian winger Mohammad Mohebi on Monday.

The 23-year-old player joined Esteghlal on a one-year loan deal from Santa Clara.

The Iran league titleholders started the new season with a 2-0 home loss against favorites Sepahan.

The Blues have recently completed the signing of Mehdi Ghaedi from Emirati football club Shabab Al Ahli.

Woman weightlifter Elham Hosseini snatches bronze

TEHRAN – Iranian woman weightlifter Elham Hosseini claimed the bronze medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games Sunday night.

She managed to lift 223kg in total with 100kg in the snatch and 123kg in the clean and jerk.

Gold medal went to Turkish lifter Dilara Narin (99-130-229).

Kazakhstan’s Aisha Omarova won the silver (98-128-226).

More than 4,000 athletes from 56 countries compete in the Games in Konya, Turkey.

There are 19 sports and four Para sports on the program.

Iran to play China at Asian Men’s U18 Volleyball Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran will open the 14th edition of the Asian Men’s U18 Volleyball Championship with a match against China.

Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with China, Chinese Taipei and Kuwait.

Pool B consists of Japan, Thailand, South Korea and India. “I am very pleased that we had the chance to play with China and Iraq junior teams at home in a friendly encounter. This age groups are the future of volleyball and we should be very careful how to teach them the basics of volleyball. We are thinking of the best medal in this event,” Reza Vakili, head coach of Iran, said in the pre-match news conference.

The eight-day event started on Aug. 15 in Tehran, Iran.

Motamedi wins gold at Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Weightlifter Rasoul Motamedi of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Monday.

Motamedi, who competed in 102 kg, won the gold with 177kg in the snatch, 223 kg in the clean and jerk and 400kg in total.

Kazakhstan’s Ariyom Antropov won the silver medal with 164kg in the snatch, 222kg in the clean and jerk and 386kg in total.

Kyrgyz weightlifter Bekdoolot Resulbekov won the bronze medal with 169kg in the snatch, 216kg in the clean and jerk and a total of 385 kilograms.

Iranian weightlifters win medals in Islamic Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iranian weightlifters Peyman Jan and Mehdi Karami won a silver and a bronze medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games on Monday.

Ruslan Nuridinov from Uzbekistan won three gold medals with three weightlifting records, with 187kg in the snatch, 230kg in the clean and jerk, and 417kg in total in the men’s 109kg class in the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games.

Jan lifted 166kg in the snatch, and 216kg in the clean and jerk. He claimed the silver with a total of 382kg.

Karami won the bronze medal with 173kg in the snatch, 207kg in the clean and jerk and 380kg in total.

Iran’s men’s volleyball team collect gold in Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s volleyball team claimed a gold medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games on Monday.

Iran defeated Cameroon 3-1 (25-16, 18-25, 25-23, 25-14) at the Karatay Congress and Sport Center Konya.

Iran’s women’s volleyball team will also play Turkey in the final match Monday night.

More than 4,000 athletes from 56 countries compete in the Games in Konya, Turkey.

There are 19 sports and four Para sports on the program.

Iran’s Yousefi claims silver in weightlifting

TEHRAN – Alireza Yousefi of Iran seized a silver medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games on Monday.

He earned a silver with 181kg in the snatch, 230kg in the clean and jerk and 411kg in total.

Uzbekistan’s Akbar Djuraev (200-246-446) won the gold medal and bronze medal went to Turkmenistan’s Hojamuhammet Toychyev (184-225-409).

More than 4,000 athletes from 56 countries compete in the Games in Konya, Turkey.

There are 19 sports and four Para sports on the program.

Central Asia Regional Junior Badminton Championships: Iran sweep podium

TEHRAN – Iran secured a podium sweep at Central Asia Regional Junior Badminton Championships underway in Tajikistan on Monday as Iranian badminton players bagged all the available medals in the tournament.

Iranian athletes snatched all the four gold medals in Men’s Singles and Women’s Singles in both U-15 and U-17 categories.

Two Iranian badminton players were also present at all the four final games of Men’s Doubles and Women’s doubles in both U-15 and U-17 categories so that they swept all the four gold medals and all the silver medals of doubles.

Tajikistan, Mongolia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan were present at the competitions which was the first edition of Central Asia Regional Junior Badminton Championships.

IRISL transports 3,000 tons of goods along INSTC in 2 months



From page 1 ► Currently, most of the commodities that are transported through Iran along the INSTC are shipments from Russia for India.

Russians and Indians know very well that the

transit time of shipping goods on routes through Black Sea and Suez Canal take something between 45 and 60 days, and cargoes on these two routes roam 14,000 kilometers from ports of Central Asian countries to East Asian countries which is considered a very long way. However, the same goods reach their destination via the INSTC using Iranian Bandar Abbas and Chabahar ports in only 14 to 15 days which is a third of that time.

To be transited through the north-south corridor, cargos enter northern Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea shores and then transferred by road to the southern ports of the country on the Persian Gulf. From there they are loaded onto a ship and sent to their destinations in East Asia.

Peak electricity consumption exceeds 69,000 MW

TEHRAN – Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has said the country's peak electricity consumption in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) has reached 69,278 megawatts (MW), which is 2,000 MW more than the figure for the previous year.

Speaking to the press on Monday, Mehrabian said the gap between electricity supply and demand was around 19,000 MW in the previous year, however, due to the significant surge in demand the figure is expected to reach 20,000 MW in the current year, ILNA reported.

According to the minister, the average temperature in the country has been 38 degrees on the Celsius scale since the beginning of the year so far, which shows an increase of 1.1 degrees compared to the same period last year.

The official further noted that each degree of temperature rise would boost the country's electricity consumption by 1,500 MW and this means that with each degree of temperature rise 2,500 MW capacity of new power plants should be added to the country's power network.

"This year, despite people's savings, we have witnessed an 85 percent growth in electricity consumption," Mehrabian said.

He noted that over one million new electricity subscribers have been added to the number of the country's power consumers since the previous



calendar year.

The minister had previously called on people to continue following consumption management programs, saying: "If the people's cooperation and saving continue like in the early days of the summer, we will get through the remaining days of the season with minimal problems."

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

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

Construction of Iran's 1st specialized textile industrial park to begin soon

TEHRAN – The managing director of Tehran Industrial Estates Company said on Monday that a specialized industrial park is going to be established for garment and textile industries, IIRB reported.

"The construction of a garment industrial park will begin in the next few days," Saeid Sadeqi said.

Sadeqi said the establishment of this park, which was delayed for a long time due to various reasons, will commence in the next few days after receiving the necessary permits.

According to the official, the construction of the mentioned park is expected to take one year to be completed.



country's industrial parks and zones during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

According to the ISIPO head, with the reviving of the mentioned units job opportunities were created for over 39,000 people.

"ISIPO had put it on the agenda to revive 2,000 stagnant units inside and outside industrial parks and zones in the previous year and by the end of the year 2,067 idle units returned to the production cycle, which provided employment for more than 39,000 people," Rasoulzadeh said.

The official noted that 1,433 small workshop units were also established in the mentioned year most of which were production and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The necessary licenses were also obtained

TPO inks co-op MOU with Mauritius' EDB

From page 1 ► As reported, some of the main goals of the mentioned MOU include creating a practical framework for joint cooperation between the two countries in various fields, promotion of investment-making with a focus on sectors such as engineering, agricultural processing, medicine, health care, ports and logistics, information and communication technology, construction, hoteling, education and breeding, industry and

cinema, etc.

The MOU is also aimed at promoting mutual trade between the private sectors of the two sides considering the potentials and export capabilities of the parties in the agricultural, industrial, and mineral sectors.

It also emphasizes the exchange of information about export opportunities, resources, incentives, and support services between the two countries, as well as facilitating



activities related to information gathering and market research.

Facilitating the formation of joint investment projects between private and public sectors of Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Iran, technology transfer, and technical knowledge exchange between the two countries, especially in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, processing of agricultural products, medicine, and medical equipment as

well as construction industry were also reported to be among the issues covered in the said MOU.

During the gathering, the two sides underlined the significance of the event as a platform for promoting cooperation between the two countries in the commercial, economic, and tourism sectors and expressed hope that both sides will be able to benefit from each other's facilities in future collaborations.

'Govt. support packages can push stock market towards an upward trend'

TEHRAN – Market analyst, Mehdi Souri, believes that stimulation of demand, providing support packages and liquidity injection by the government can push the stock market in a positive direction, IRNA reported on Monday.

"In the current situation when shareholders do not expect further decline in the market index, demand stimulation, support packages and liquidity injection can push the stock market to a positive direction," Souri said.

In his assessment of the market condition, he pointed to the low probability of a heavy fall in the stock market, saying: "In general, when market participants do not expect a severe fall [in the market index], the market can continue to perform more optimistically."

Mentioning the impacts of the political issues like the nuclear deal and Vienna talks on the market condition, he noted that at some times, the market's view of the JCPOA (nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) has been positive and at other times negative.

"At the moment, the market's view on the



issue [JCPOA] is positive, because shareholders believe that if positive relations are established with other countries, companies will have a better chance for selling their products and provide equipment needed for their overhaul and development projects, as well as transferring money inside the country," Souri added.

According to the expert, the loss of people's trust in the capital market has been one of the biggest challenges for the market.

"Willingness for investment in the country has decreased, and this is a big threat; we are always

worried about the outflow of capital from the country along with the outflow of talents," he said.

Iranian stock market has been struggling for months to get back on track, however various internal and external factors have been hindering this market from reaching its true potential.

Back in July, senior stock market analyst, Ashkan Zoudfekr had also said that government must support the stock market against other parallel competitors like money and property markets.

"Considering the fact that the capital market provides liquidity and dynamism to the economy, and is a useful and active part of the country's economic development, strengthening it should become a priority for the government," Zoudfekr said.

Stating that lack of sufficient attention and determination by the government to regulate and supervise speculative markets has caused liquidity to be guided to such markets and become idle and unproductive.

Export from Hamedan province rises 50% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, the value of export from Hamedan province increased by 50 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).

Javad Mohammadi, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that commodities worth \$35.955 million have been exported from the province in the mentioned four-month period.

He named Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Russia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Belgium and Italy as the main export destinations, and raisins, single-phase industrial electric motor, industrial Vaseline, ribbed rebar, uncoated aluminum wire, salt and pickles, dairy products and potato starch as the major exported items in the first four months of this year.

As previously announced by Ahmad Shani, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and

Trade Department, commodities valued at \$21 million were exported from Hamedan province in the first quarter of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

The official said that of the mentioned figure, \$7.242 million was the export from industry sector of the province, with 112 percent growth year on year.

He said agricultural products valued at \$3.091 million were exported from Hamedan in the first quarter, showing 50 percent drop as compared to the first quarter 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, IIRB 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.

TEDPIX gains 43 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 43 points on Monday.

The index closed at 1,463 million points at the end of Monday trades, as over 7,374 billion securities worth 36,258 trillion rials (about \$130 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 403 points and the second market's index gained 1,388 points.

Tehran Stock Exchange experienced a growth of 9.5 percent in the value of its trades in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

TSE is one of 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).

On August 1, Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament (Majlis)'s Economic Committee said the parliament is seeking to pass new legislations to prevent stock market violations.

"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 stated.

According to the official, the details of the mentioned bill have been reviewed by the committee's specialized working groups, and it is now being reviewed by capital market experts and specialized institutions to be passed by the end of summer (September 22).

He pointed to the enhancement of transparency in the capital market as one of the main axes of this bill and said: "In order to prevent violations and problems due to unprofessional behavior and illegal activities, the capital market needs to increase transparency."



In a commentary late last month The National Interest said, “The net result of Joe Biden’s journey is to make the Middle East even more of a conflictual place than it was before.”

The article, titled “Biden’s Middle East trip was about domestic politics, not peace”, reads as follows:

President Joe Biden’s trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia demonstrated how old habits in domestic politics can overwhelm any creative thinking, or any progress at all, regarding U.S. national interests overseas. The trip’s two main purposes concerned the domestic political interests of a president who—largely for reasons beyond his control—is suffering low poll numbers. One purpose was to fulfill what many American politicians consider an electoral requirement, which is to demonstrate love for Israel. The other was to show American consumers that he is trying to do something to lower the price of gasoline, and with that, to ease the larger problem of inflation. Whether or not Biden succeeds in winning any political points, the trip yielded no evident benefit for the national interest and is more likely to have negative consequences.

The gasoline price issue involves the quantity of crude oil that Saudi Arabia produces. After his meetings with the Saudis, Biden was only able to make a vague statement that he expected “further steps” by Saudi Arabia in the “coming weeks” to increase the supply of oil. In fact, there is good reason to expect that any such increase will be minimal, as a matter of Saudi capability as well as of willingness. Saudi leaders have talked a good game about increasing to 12 or even 13 million barrels per day, but observers of the Saudi oil industry have serious doubts. President Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates recently told French president Emmanuel Macron that Saudi Arabia and the UAE already were near the limits of their ability to pump oil. Saudi production currently is at about 10.5 million bpd. The highest the Saudis ever have produced for as much as one month was about 11.5 million bpd.

If Biden really wanted to get more oil onto the world market in a hurry, he would have a better chance to do that not by cajoling the Saudis but instead by returning the United States to compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the multilateral agreement

that restricted the nuclear activity of Iran. This would lift oil sanctions on Iran, which has the fourth-largest petroleum reserves in the world. The Iranians currently are producing about 1.3 million bpd less than they were just before the current sanctions were imposed. They demonstrated how fast they can ramp up production when an earlier round of sanctions was lifted with the signing of the JCPOA, after which Iran increased production by 500,000 barrels per day within four months, and by about a million barrels per day within a year. And that is not to mention some 65 million barrels of oil condensate that Iran has stored in anchored tanker ships, ready to export.

Although Biden said he favors diplomacy in dealing with Iran, his posture during this trip moved away from diplomacy and toward war. In the same interview with Israeli television in which he again refused to consider removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations even if restoration of the JCPOA depended on it—and even though the IRGC still would be subject to numerous other U.S. sanctions—he expressed a willingness to use military force against Iran.

This trip highlighted how much Biden’s Middle East (West Asia) policy has been a continuation of Donald Trump’s, including in what became the main theme of the trip, which was to encourage deepening relations between Israel and the (Persian) Gulf Arab states. The administration clearly is itching for Saudi Arabia to move to full diplomatic relations with the Israelis during Biden’s term, to score some of the domestic political points that the Trump administration worked so hard to score by pushing some other Arab states into taking that step.

It is obvious why the Israeli government has placed such high priority on normalization; it shows Israel can enjoy cordial relationships with other states in the region despite continuing the occupation of Palestinian territory, the settlement project, and the denial of self-determination to Palestinians. Neither the previous

Net result of Biden’s journey to West Asia was to make the region more of a conflictual place: analysis

nor the current U.S. administration has ever explained, however, what’s supposedly in it for the United States, or for peace and stability in the Middle East (West Asia). The upgrading of relations was in no way a “peace agreement”—the Arab states concerned already had cooperative relations with Israel, including even on security matters.

Instead, what has been formed is an anti-Iran military alliance, which is how the Israeli defense minister explicitly describes it. What the Biden administration is promoting and encouraging the Saudis to join more fully and openly is an intensification of conflict in the Persian Gulf region and a move away, not toward, peace and stability.

The upgrading of Israeli relations with those Arab states also perpetuates another Middle East (West Asia) conflict—the one between Israel and the Palestinians. For Israel, part of what the upgrading was all about was to bypass the Palestinians and not make peace with them. Biden’s brief visit to the West Bank and meeting with Mahmoud Abbas—the unpopular

octogenarian president of the obsolete structure that is called the Palestinian Authority and is now little more than an auxiliary to Israeli security forces—was a sad reminder of how this U.S. president made it obvious from the beginning of his term that he was not going to spend political capital on trying to bring this conflict any closer to a resolution or the Palestinians any closer to self-determination.

The presidential trip was accompanied by much commentary about how Saudi Arabia is too important not to be engaged, and thus Biden was justified to go back on his earlier statements about making it a “pariah.” Engagement is certainly warranted, but engagement does not equate with a presidential trip. If engagement is important, it is fair to ask why Biden did not bother to nominate an ambassador to Saudi Arabia until just three months ago—a nominee still not confirmed.

Like it or not, a presidential visit gets perceived as a reward to, and recognition of, the leader being

visited. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) basked in having a U.S. president come to him—a president whom MBS snubbed just a few months ago by refusing to take his phone call. The ruler who ordered the killing of Jamal Khashoggi used his meeting with Biden to play upon the administration’s hypocrisy about lethal abuses, given its sweeping under the rug the Israeli killing of a Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

To the extent this visit affects MBS’s motivations, it won’t be to pump a lot more oil. Instead, it will be to make the Saudi ruler even less likely than he otherwise might be either to correct the serious human rights abuses within the kingdom or to back off from the destabilizing ways he was pursued Saudi regional dominance and the rivalry with Iran, exemplified by the devastating Saudi air war against Yemen.

In his speech at the Jeddah summit, Biden said the United States was not going to leave a “vacuum” in the Middle East (West Asia) to be filled by Russia and China. This statement has the same problem that the “vacuum” metaphor usually has when applied to the intervention of major powers in someone else’s region. It’s not like a gas that pushes out other gas; it’s more likely to elicit counteractions from the other side. The Saudi foreign minister remarked during Biden’s visit that the kingdom’s ties to the United States and China are not mutually exclusive. And the U.S.-promoted activity in the region that is predicated on hostility toward Iran has the unsurprising effect of pushing Iran into closer ties with Russia and China. This process is underscored by Iran’s joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and by Russian president Vladimir Putin’s visit to Iran, with timing nearly simultaneous with Biden’s Middle East trip.

In sum, the net result of Biden’s journey is to make the Middle East (West Asia) even more of a conflictual place than it was before. As for great power involvement, there are echoes of how the Middle East (West Asia) was a playing field in the Cold War between the United States and the USSR. A difference is that the line-ups in the game have changed some, with the U.S. side having swapped the dictatorship of the shah of Iran for the dictatorship of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Egypt.

his children.” Others have speculated that Trump’s former chief of staff Mark Meadows may have provided the information to the FBI.

News first broke in early February that the former president had improperly taken classified documents to Mar-a-Lago, with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) confirming that it had been searching for 15 boxes of records. The ex-president did not deny the story at the time, saying that it was a mix-up as his staff hastily moved him out of the White House.

After the boxes were returned to the NARA, the collection led to additional concern that the former president still had additional classified materials. Federal investigators began interviewing Trump staffers to determine what had been taken from the White House. The interviews, and a broader investigation overseen by a U.S. attorney, resulted in a grand jury subpoena served against Trump in late May to produce specific documents.

When the documents were not turned over, the FBI and the Justice Department chose to take the unprecedented step of carrying out a search warrant against a former president. A federal judge, as is required due process, approved the warrant—believing that the FBI had demonstrated probable cause.

Trump’s shifting explanations follow a familiar playbook

First, he said he was “working and cooperating with” government agents who he claimed had inappropriately entered his home. Then, when the government revealed that the FBI, during its search, had recovered nearly a dozen sets of documents that were marked classified, he suggested the agents had planted evidence.

Finally, his aides claimed that he had a “standing order” to declassify documents that left the Oval Office for his residence and that some of the material was protected by attorney-client and executive privilege.

Those are the ever shifting explanations that former President Donald Trump and his aides have given regarding what FBI agents found last week in a search of his residence at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump and his allies have cast the search as a partisan assault while amplifying conflicting arguments about the handling of sensitive documents and failing to answer a question at the center of the federal investigation: Why was he keeping documents, some still marked classified, at an unsecured Florida resort when officials had sought for a year to retrieve them?

The often contradictory and unsupported defenses perpetuated by Trump and his team since the FBI search follow a familiar playbook of the former president’s. He has used it over decades but most visibly when he was faced with the investigation into whether his campaign in 2016 conspired with Russians and during his first impeachment trial.

In both instances, he claimed victimization and mixed some facts with a blizzard of misleading statements or falsehoods. His lawyers denied he had tied his administration’s withholding of vital military aid to Ukraine to Trump’s desire for investigations into Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.

When information contradicting that defense emerged in a forthcoming book by Trump’s former national security adviser John Bolton, Trump’s lawyers switched to insisting that he hadn’t connected the aid to the investigations, but that if he had, it wouldn’t have been an impeachable offense.

Of the multiple investigations Trump currently faces—including a state inquiry in Georgia and two federal grand jury investigations, all related to his efforts to cling to power at the end of his presidency, as well as civil and criminal inquiries in New York related to his company—the federal investigation into his handling of sensitive documents taken from the White House has emerged as one of the most potentially damaging.

A search warrant made public Friday revealed federal agents had recovered top secret documents when they searched Trump’s Florida residence earlier in the week as part of an investigation into possible violations of the Espionage Act and other laws.

Among the 11 sets of documents taken were some marked as “classified/TS/SCI”—shorthand for “top secret/sensitive compartmented information,” according to an inventory of the materials seized in the search. Those types of documents are meant to be viewed only in secure facilities. The inventory of documents included other material, some described as “confidential.”

The stunning revelation made clear the gravity of the Justice Department’s inquiry months after the National Archives and Records Administration said it had discovered classified information in documents that Trump had held onto after leaving office.

“What he doesn’t have the right to do is possess the documents; they are not his,” said Jason Baron, a former director of litigation at the National Archives for more than a decade. “There should be no presidential records at Mar-a-Lago, whether they are classified or unclassified or subject to executive privilege or subject to attorney-client privilege.”

Documents covered by executive privilege are meant to be kept within the government.

A spokesperson for Trump did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Trump used Hillary Rodham Clinton’s mishandling of classified material, as seen in a Justice Department investigation into her email practices in 2015 and 2016, as political fodder during his first campaign. He is considering another national campaign for 2024, and questions about whether he mishandled the nation’s secrets could be problematic for him, even absent an investigation.

After officials with the National Archives tried for several months to retrieve material from Trump, he turned over 15 boxes of documents in January. The next month, the National Archives confirmed the discovery of the classified information and referred



the matter to the Justice Department.

Over the following months, officials came to learn that Trump still had additional material at Mar-a-Lago that some of his advisers urged him to hand over.

Trump described the handover of the 15 boxes as “an ordinary and routine process.” But administrations have been required to turn over documents to the National Archives before leaving office for more than 40 years, as part of the Presidential Records Act that was created in response to President Richard Nixon’s attempt to take his documents and recordings with him after resigning in disgrace.

Kash Patel, a former Trump administration official, subsequently justified the handling of the documents by saying Trump had declassified them before leaving office—a claim echoed by Trump last week.

In an appearance on Fox News on Friday night, right-wing writer John Solomon, one of Trump’s representatives for interacting with the National Archives, read a statement from the former president’s office asserting Trump had a “standing order” during his presidency that “documents removed from the Oval Office and taken to the residence were deemed to be declassified the moment he removed them.”

That claim would not resolve the investigation. Two of the laws referred to in the search warrant executed last week criminalize the taking or concealment of government records, regardless of whether they had anything to do with national security. And laws against taking material with restricted national security information are not dependent on whether the material is technically classified.

Bolton, who served as Trump’s third national security adviser over 17 months, said he had never heard of the standing order that Trump’s office claimed to have in place. It is, he said, “almost certainly a lie.”

“I was never briefed on any such order, procedure, policy when I came in,” Bolton said, adding he had never been told of it while he was working there and had never heard of such a thing after. “If he were to say something like that, you would have to memorialize that, so that people would know it existed,” he said.

What’s more, he pointed out, secure facilities for viewing sensitive material were constructed at Trump’s clubs in Florida and New Jersey, where he often spent weekends as president, meaning that the documents wouldn’t need to be declassified. And if they were declassified, Bolton said, they would be considered subject to public-record requests.

He added: “When somebody begins to concoct lies like this, it shows a real level of desperation.”

The claim that the documents held in the Florida residence were declassified also undercut an assertion one of Trump’s lawyers made in June. In a written declaration, the lawyer’s team said all material marked as classified and stored at Mar-a-Lago had been returned to the government.

Last week, Trump again accused the Justice Department of acting as a tool for his political opponents, a familiar tactic for a former president who had tried repeatedly to politicize the department during his four years in office. Describing the FBI as corrupt, Trump suggested that its agents had planted incriminating material at Mar-a-Lago during the search, and he demanded they return documents that he said were protected by executive privilege.

Such accusations of political motivation prompted Attorney General Merrick Garland to defend the bureau’s agents during brief remarks last week. Trump’s unverified accusations also came as the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security last week issued an intelligence bulletin that warned of an increase in threats against federal law enforcement after the search of Mar-a-Lago, including general calls for a “civil war” or “armed rebellion.”

(Source: New York Times)

Jared Kushner most likely Mar-a-Lago mole behind FBI raid: Mary Trump

Mary Trump, a psychologist and Donald Trump’s niece, speculated that Jared Kushner was the confidential source that tipped off the FBI to what confidential documents were being held at Mar-a-Lago and where they were located.

Newsweek first reported on Wednesday that a confidential source had provided the information to federal authorities, citing two senior government officials. The raid on Monday, which was approved by Attorney General Merrick Garland, aimed to seize top secret and other classified documents that the ex-president was holding at his Florida resort residence.

In an interview with The Dean Obeidallah Show on Friday, Mary Trump was asked who the informer could be. She said it was “tough to choose,” but pointed to Kushner, the husband of Trump’s eldest daughter Ivanka Trump. Kushner and Ivanka served as senior White House advisers in Trump’s administration.

“I think we need to look very hard at why Jared got \$2 billion. We need to look very hard at why he has been so quiet for so many months now. And we need to think about who, if it, who could also be implicated in this that would need as big a play as turning Donald in, in order to get out of trouble, or at least to mitigate the trouble they’re in,” Mary



Trump said.

“It sounds like somebody in Jared’s position. I’m not saying it’s Jared, but it could be,” she added. Mary Trump appeared to be referring to the \$2 billion investment Kushner secured from Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund about six months after his father-in-law’s White House tenure came to an end.

Notably, Donald Trump’s former attorney Michael Cohen also said that the informer could have been one of the former president’s children or his son-in-law.

“It’s definitely a member of [Trump’s] inner circle,” Cohen told Insider on Thursday. “I would not be surprised to find out it is Jared or one of

Tourism offers Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad villages new sources of income

TEHRAN –Tourism has offered new possibilities and opportunities for income generation in rural areas of the southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Villages in this province have a high capacity for tourism, so this industry could be considered a new source of income for the villagers, Saeid Talebipur said on Monday.

Tourists, especially foreigners, are attracted to many villages because of their pristine and unspoiled nature, the official added.

The villagers can also improve their economic situation by offering tourists local, organic and healthy products, he noted.

So far more than 14 villages have been selected as high potential targets with the aim of boosting rural tourism across the province, he explained.

There will be support from the province's tourism directorate for investors to develop infrastructure in these villages, he mentioned.

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



Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

Seljuk-era arch bridge being restored



TEHRAN – Restoration work has commenced on the Seljuk era (1037–1194) Jajrud arch bridge near capital Tehran, a local tourism official has said.

Various sections of the bridge including its deck, pillar, and foundation are being restored and reinforced under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, Somayyeh Khakpur explained on Monday.

The restoration project is planned to be completed within a month, the official added.

The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Arch bridges can be classified into deck arch bridges (featuring arches below the deck) and through arch bridges (those with arches above the deck, generally tied arches). In all arch bridges, the structural difficulty can be found in the minimization of the misalignment of the arch

axis and the line of thrust, as well as a sufficient bending and buckling resistance. General design recommendations focus principally on the arch-to-span ratio, the arch and deck slenderness, and the number of hangers or piers.

Recent innovative arch bridges include high-speed railway (HSR) bridges, concrete-filled steel tubular and precast concrete arches, high-performance concrete or ultra-high performance concrete arches, and steel-concrete composite arches, and feature innovative erection methods.

Recent research has been dedicated to the shape and magnitude of equivalent geometric imperfections, fatigue detailing, erection methods, reduction of the arch's self-weight, and new materials for arches, hangers, and ties.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in the Middle East.

‘Samen underground city is a unique tourist attraction’

From page 1 ▶ Last week, the official announced that Samen underground city would open its doors to the public in the near future.

It has been demanded by the public and the media that the underground city becomes accessible to sightseers, he added.

Since last year, the tourism ministry has allocated funds for the restoration of this complex, as well as completion of the base building and lighting, he noted.

Over 25 billion rials (\$84,000) have so far been spent on research, exploration, restoration, organizing, lighting, and equipping the underground city of Samen, the official added.

Samen subterranean settlement has 25 rock-carved rooms, interlinked tunnels, and corridors.

The subterranean complex

appears to have been first used for religious purposes, then as a cemetery, and finally as a shelter during emergencies.

The underground complex, located 400 km west of Tehran, is believed to be built sometime between the fall of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the early Parthian era (247 BC-224 CE).

Excavations at the site began in 2005 and are still going on. So far tens of well-preserved skeletons have been retrieved from its interconnected chambers.

Iran is a haven for ancient troglodytic architecture which is somewhat forgotten though they are filled with life and creativity. The northwest Kandovan village is one of the most famous examples of troglodytic architecture in the country; its ice-cream cone-shaped homes resemble that of Turkey's



Cappadocia.

In October 2018, the country hosted the 3rd International Troglodytic Architecture Conference in which tens of experts, researchers, and academia discussed troglodyte-associated architecture, culture, and technology.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamadan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of

the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

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

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Restoration begins on historical castle in East Azarbaijan

TEHRAN –The ancient Babak fortress in East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involves strengthening the foundation and walls, and repairing the roof and flooring, Ahmad Hamzezadeh explained on Monday.

A long-term project of the province is the restoration and protection of Babak castle, which is continuously carried out by the province's cultural heritage experts, the official added.

The ancient fort is named after Babak Khorramdin, an Iranian national hero, warlord, and revolutionary leader who fought against Arab invaders until he died in 838 CE.

The ruined fortress is nestled atop a sharp cliff. Thus, ascending the mount to set foot on the ancient fort may seem somewhat arduous for many visitors but in most cases proves to be a considerable and gratifying experience.

The fortress can be reached via several access



paths, though the normal route ascends stairs behind the seasonal Babak Hotel.

It consists of several stone towers and lodging areas stretched over a space of nearly ten thousand square meters and the origins of the monument are said to date from the Sassanid era (224–651).

Once at the top, onlookers are greatly rewarded with vistas of the encircling Arasbaran

oak forests, jagged cliffs, and steep gorges.

Babak fortress is embraced by Arasbaran Protected Area, which is a candidate for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2018.

From very early history to modern times, defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortifications in antiquity were designed primarily to defeat attempts at the escalade, and to the defense of territories in warfare, and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime.

Uruk in ancient Sumer (Mesopotamia) is one of the world's oldest known walled cities. The Ancient Egyptians also built fortresses on the frontiers of the Nile Valley to protect against invaders from neighboring territories.

Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built with mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

Historical properties in Gilan ceded to private sector

TEHRAN –Four historical places and monuments across the northern province of Gilan have been temporarily ceded to the private sector in order to receive further care and maintenance, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The historical Sadeqi building in Lahijan, Iran Hotel and Shah Abbasi Caravanserai, both in Rasht, and Merian Public Bathhouse are planned to be restored and repurposed by the private sector, CHTN quoted Vali Jahani as saying on Monday.

As the government and other organizations are unable to restore all historical monuments across the province, some have been ceded to the private sector under certain



conditions with the goal of receiving better maintenance, the official explained.

Over the past couple of years, tens of historical places and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector under the supervision of the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

Affiliated with the tourism

ministry, the Fund is in charge of concession with the aim of historical sites receiving better maintenance by repurposing them into thriving boutique hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, or other profitable niches.

The country boasts hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the

successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz Mountain range.

National Museum of Holy Quran in Tehran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Located in the northwest of the intersection of Imam Khoemini Street and Valiasr Street, National Museum of Holy Quran is the only specific museum of Iran dedicated to the Quranic arts.

This museum has been built in a space with 10000 square meter area in which three main sectors of Museum, administration and specific library are recognizable.

All the construction is placed underground in 14 meters depth. In addition to the Quran manuscripts related to a vast time span, from the 4th century AH to the late of Qajar period, this museum is also narrating the development process of other related arts to the writing of Quran including gilding, book binding, calligraphy and etc.

The museum exhibits are displayed in three parts as following: 1. the cultural-



historical section; 2. the section of Quranic objects; and 3. the section of contemporary works of art. A collection of manuscripts and lithographic Qurans, the poets' book, scrolls, prayer books and Quranic pieces are on display in the first sector of the museum.

Works of the famous artists such as Mir

Ali Heravi, Mohammad Ibrahim Qomi, Abdol Gader Hosseini and Om-e Salameh are also here. The second part contains the objects like the wares, vases, boxes, pencil cases and coins in which the Quranic verses or prayers are somehow included.

The third part has been devoted to the works of the contemporary artists especially the painters and calligraphers whose painting, calligraphy and calligram works are kept in the museum. At present, the museum embraces 650 granted Quranic works.

Besides the objects, the internal architecture of the museum and its decorations cannot be overlooked; it is inspired by the Iranian-Islamic style of architecture where a part of the motif of Shamseh (the sun) has been depicted in each of three stories of the museum.

Tourism projects worth \$7.3m to be inaugurated in Mazandaran

TEHRAN – On the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), several tourism-related projects worth 2.2 trillion rials (\$7.3 million) are scheduled to come on stream in the northern province of Mazandaran.

The projects include eco-lodge units, tourist complexes, traditional restaurants, and handicrafts centers, the provincial tourism chief Mehdi Izadi said on Monday.

During the time mentioned, three handicraft exhibitions will also be held in the cities of Behshahr, Kelardasht, and Ramsar, the official added.

The exhibits aim at promoting the region's handicrafts and traditional arts as well as making a marketplace for the local artisans, he noted.

An early civilization flourished at the beginning

of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

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

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

Pirouz paws touched the soil for first time

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The lone surviving Asiatic cheetah cub, named “Pirouz” meaning “victorious” in Farsi, for the first time touched the soil outside and started playing.

An endangered female cheetah, called “Iran”, gave birth to three cubs in captivity, for the first time for the subspecies. The cubs were born at the Touran Wildlife Refuge in Semnan province, on May 1st, by cesarean section.

However, one of the cubs who were weaker lost his life in the early days, and after a while, the second cub also died due to improper care.

The lone surviving cub seems to be healthy and agile.

The Department of Environment (DOE) was preparing an outdoor site to familiarize “Pirouz” with sunlight and outdoor air. Then move him to his main habitat in Touran Wildlife Refuge in early November.

“Pirouz” was not supposed to be released into nature and live among wildlife, due to many problems that still bring a lot of worries, even if he was born naturally and was fed by his mother, Gholamreza Ebdali, head of the wildlife protection and management office of the DOE, said.

The cubs born in captivity must be tamed and trained and have no



feared of humans so that they can be easily diagnosed without anesthesia on special occasions when blood sampling is needed, he stated.

Hassan Akbari, deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE), said in January that the Asiatic Cheetah was down to just 12, from an estimated 100 in 2010.

The cheetah habitat in the southern part of the country is stretching to over three million hectares but is hosting only a few cheetahs.

The DOE has long been trying to breed Asiatic cheetah in the wild and in captivity so that the species is protected from extinction, but none appeared successful.

Previously, artificial insemination has been conducted on a female cheetah called ‘Delbar’ several times, and all failed.

Fastest mammal endangered

Over the past 60 years, Iran is home to the last known population of Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed across vast ranges of the west and south Asian countries, from West Asia to India. Listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, the Asiatic cheetah is among the rarest cats in the world at the subspecies level, with fewer than 50 believed to remain in Iran.

In Iran, the cheetah is also bound to cultural and social meanings. In 2014, the Iranian national football team announced that their 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2015 AFC Asian Cup kits are imprinted with pictures of the Asiatic cheetah to bring attention to conservation efforts.

In February 2015, Iran launched a search engine, Yooz, that features a cheetah as the logo. And it

all shows that cheetahs and Pirouz are now more important than ever — and became part of our Iranian culture and are embedded in our daily life.

Cheetahs’ habitats in Iran are stretching over 12 million hectares of land area and over the past 16 years, only experts collaborating with the Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP project) have strived to count 48 cheetahs using trap cameras and other technical methods.

Roads fragmenting cheetahs’ habitats are the main threats to the species, while guard dogs and stray dogs, drought spells, decreasing population of the prey species to support the cheetahs, and habitat loss are also other factors endangering the sparse population of the cheetahs in the country.

Listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, the Asiatic cheetah is among the rarest cats in the world at the subspecies level.

Over 3,400 drug smugglers arrested

TEHRAN – More than 3,400 smugglers of narcotics were arrested through a plan called Zafar, literally meaning victory, Tehran police chief Hossein Rahimi announced on Monday.

Anti-narcotics police officers arrested 3,424 drug distributors and discovered more than 2 tons of narcotics in the implementation of the 18th phase of the plan, he explained, IRNA reported.

He went on to say that eight houses were officially sealed and 19 firearms were discovered from drug dealers.

World record of narcotics seizure

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Eskandar Momeni, the director of anti-narcotics police headquarters said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

In the Iranian calendar year ended in March 2021, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world.

According to figures released by the United Nations in 2000, Afghanistan produced about 200 tons of narcotics, but in 2018, it has grown to 9,500 tons.

In other words, the production of narcotics has increased fifty times, which has doubled the need for prevention efforts, he highlighted.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, and 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.



The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

the outbreak.

The share of Iranian science production from conference papers has dropped from 7.38 percent in 2017 to 1.26 percent in 2021.

In the SCOPUS international regulations, the most important research areas of Iran in the production of science in 2021 have been medicine, engineering, and materials science, respectively.

SOCIETY

AUGUST 16, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

National Environment Fund to empower women

TEHRAN – The National Environment Fund will provide facilities to empower women with sustainable livelihood, Mehr reported.

Allocation of credit for the development of small businesses is necessary in order to protect the natural ecosystems. Increasing the livelihood of local communities and villagers will protect the country's environment.

For this purpose, the National Environment Fund will support the implementation of environmental projects and grant low-interest loans to women.

Creating 10,000 jobs

The Welfare Organization will create up to 10,000 jobs to empower women heads of households, Mohammad Nasiri, the deputy head of the organization for cultural and social affairs, said in April.

A total budget of 3 trillion rials (nearly \$11.5 million) has been earmarked for empowering these women with the approach of home employment, he explained.

According to the Statistical Center of Iran, out of twenty-two (22) million families in Iran, over three (3) million are WHH and most of them are in less-developed areas. The Government prioritized such families for targeting socio-economic support.



Meanwhile, Zahra Ershadi, Iran's ambassador and deputy representative to the United Nations, has said that Iran has made significant progress in empowering women, despite U.S. illegal and inhumane sanctions.

Ensieh Khazali, the vice president for women and family affairs, said in the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, that about 12,000 female heads of households underwent empowerment training and entered the traditional and virtual market.

Also, more than 1.1 million women heads of households are covered by the Relief Committee and more than 300,000 are covered by the Welfare Organization, benefiting from special support such as facilities, insurance, and livelihood services.

A total budget of 3 trillion rials (nearly \$11.5 million) has been earmarked for empowering women with the approach of home employment.

How to communicate with a child diagnosed with cancer?

One of the most common challenges among parents and those around cancer-stricken is how to treat their child after being diagnosed with cancer.

The simplest answer is that it is very important to talk to the child about their illness.

Most children in different stages of the treatment experience a wide range of emotions such as anxiety, fear, anger, and sadness during which the calm and patient behavior of others plays a big role in managing these conditions.

“One of the main questions of parents after diagnosing their child with cancer is whether to shield their child from information about the illness or share the truth with them.

However, the encounter of the children with their illness at any age can give them a great shock but it can be demonstrated with lower emotional reaction if the child is younger or with limited information,” Maryam Mohammad-Ali, head of the MAHAK psychology department, said.

“It should be considered that the children up to seven have no comprehension of serious illness, life or death concept. Given that, it is recommended that parents do not explain the illness



in detail to not increase the child's anxiety level.

However, due to the developmental level of children after seven years old, family members must provide them with information about the disease through psychologists and specialists' assistance.

For example, the side effects of chemotherapy should be explained in a clear but understandable manner, so that they don't get scared by facing external changes such as hair and eyebrow loss, dark circles under the eyes, and physical weakness.”

Emphasizing the role of the family in the treatment process, she added: “people around the child should, directly and indirectly, convey this message to the patient that you are not alone in this difficult path and the family is always by your side.”

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 15

New cases	7,348
New deaths	71
Total cases	7,482,521
Total deaths	143,015
New hospitalized patients	1,254
Patients in critical condition	1,486
Total recovered patients	7,181,082
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,536,018
Doses of vaccine injected	153,376,913

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Shiraz University, Chinese Academy of Sciences sign MOU

Shiraz University and Chinese Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in scientific and research projects, IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Joint research activities through the Silk Road Research Program, joint publication of articles and books, study opportunities for faculty and doctoral students, use of laboratory facilities, experience exchange workshops especially in the field of natural disasters, droughts, floods, medicinal plants, biodiversity, land degradation and international joint research projects were among the mutually agreed programs.

دانشگاه شیراز و موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی چین تفاهم نامه امضا کردند

دانشکده کشاورزی به نمایندگی از دانشگاه شیراز با موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی آکادمی علوم چین سند تفاهم نامه همکاری های علمی- پژوهشی مشترک امضا کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، زمینه بهره برداری عملیاتی از ظرفیت های تفاهم نامه حاضر به ویژه در زمینه فعالیت های پژوهشی مشترک از طریق برنامه پژوهشی راه ابریشم، نشر مشترک مقالات و کتب، فرصت های مطالعاتی اعضای هیات علمی و دانشجویان دکتری، استفاده از امکانات آزمایشگاهی، برگزاری کارگاه های تبادل تجربه به ویژه در حوزه حوادث غیرمترقبه طبیعی، خشکسالی، سیل، گیاهان دارویی، تنوع زیستی، تخریب سرزمین و طرح های پژوهشی مشترک بین المللی در قالب برنامه های مشترک مورد توافق طرفین مورد بحث و بررسی قرار گرفت.

TEHRAN TIMES



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AUGUST 16, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:09 Evening: 20:12 Dawn: 4:53 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:25 (tomorrow)

Persian elements in Indian languages

Part 2
Phonology
The assimilation of Persian loans into South Asian languages has been eased by phonological similarities.

Indo-Persian is phonologically conservative, retaining the majhul vowels i and ou in some 10-vowel system as Indo-Aryan, here written a aa e i ee ai ou au (versus modern Persian a e i o e [i] ey [u] ow).

At the level of word phonology, too, modern Indo-Aryan shares the Persian preference for simple patterns of the CVCVC type. In the consonantal inventory fricatives are historically less well represented in Indo-Aryan than in Iranian, and it is the influence of Persian which largely accounts for the presence in modern South Asian languages of z, sh, f (for which everyday speech commonly substitutes j, s, ph).

The careful preservation of the Persian phonemes kh, gh, q is a mark of elite speech in Urdu and other languages, as opposed to the realizations kh, g, k characteristics of common speech.

Morphology and syntax
The Indo-Aryan languages are of the same subject-object-verb (SOV) type as Persian, with the verb placed finally in the sentence.

Within the construction of the noun phrase, however, Indo-Aryan has the order modifier-noun-postposition versus the Persian order preposition-noun-modifier, with elements typically linked by the ezafe—thus, e.g., Urdu mazid imdad ke saur par “by way of additional assistance” versus Indo-Persian ba-saur-i imdad-i mazid.

Modern Urdu quite freely admits noun phrases of the Persian type, e.g., makanat bara-e farukht, translating English “houses for sale,” or aqwam-e muttahida “United Nations” versus Hindi samyukt rasht, with preceding adjective.

The use of inflected Persian nominal forms, e.g., noun plurals in -aan or (less commonly) -ha or superlative adjectives in -tarin is typically restricted to phrases of this type.

The use over many centuries of Indo-Persian as a formal standard language characterized by a more elaborate syntax than the typical parataxis of Indo-Aryan is reflected in the ubiquitous borrowing of Indo-Persian ki “that” to introduce reported speech, as well as in numerous other conjunctions, illustrated by such Urdu examples as lekin “but,” ba in hama “nevertheless,” chunki “because,” ba-wujude-ki “in spite of the fact that,” for all of which Sanskritic substitutions are plentifully represented in other languages.

More speculatively, it has been suggested that the marking of direct objects by a dative-accusative postposition (Urdu ko and its equivalents) may have been influenced by the example of Persian -ra.

Vocabulary
Loanwords unambiguously constitute by far the most prominent Persian elements in South Asian languages.

These naturally include Perso-Arabic and Turkish words borrowed through Persian as well as words of Persian linguistic origin.

The long history of Persian in India is reflected in well-established borrowings across a large range of semantic categories, with nouns constituting by far the largest grammatical category of loans.

Selective inventories of such loans, in

many cases attested from texts of the 16th century onwards may be found in the principal histories of the main languages As would be expected, one core class of such loans is formed by words connected with Islam, including both religious vocabulary like namaz “prayer,” masjid (popular masit) “mosque,” pir “Sufi master,” and words connected with distinctive Muslim practices like the eating of meat, as in gusht “meat,” qasai (probably) “butcher,” or the preference for tailored clothes, e.g., qamiz (qamis) “shirt,” pajama “trousers,” qainchi “scissors,” darzi “tailor.”

The urban orientation of Islam is reflected in numerous common loans like shahr “city,” bazar (popular bazar) “market,” and its role in education by words like kaghaz “paper,” qalam “pen,” siyahi “ink.”

A very considerable further class of core loans is made up of words connected with administration, e.g., badshah “king,” zila “district,” qanun “law,” fauj “army,” although this last class of words has naturally been subject in many Indian languages to conscious replacement by Sanskritic tatsama equivalents.

Conversely, the number of such Persian loanwords has been vastly increased in modern Pakistani usage by fresh borrowings and coinages added to the already enormous Persian abstract vocabulary which characterizes formal Urdu, e.g., barr-e saghir “subcontinent” (where the contrast with Persian nim-qarre points to the divergence of Urdu from the nativizing tendencies of modern Persian coinages), or taraqqi-pazir mamalik “developing countries.”

Besides the numerous syntactic markers of Persian origin noted above for Urdu, Persian loans also provide many core adjectives, e.g., Urdu khubsurat “beautiful” versus Persian ziba, or siyah “black” alongside native kala.

The adjectival stock is further expanded by the free use of Persian compounding formations, for which there are few Indo-Aryan equivalents, e.g., the negative prefix be-, found not only in loans like be-sabr “impatient” but also with Indo-Aryan elements as in be-chain “restless” (chain “repose”).

Modern coinages include many more extended examples, e.g., naqabil-e bardasht “intolerable.”

Well-established loans in other grammatical categories include pronouns, e.g., Urdu khud “self,” alongside native ap, and numerals, including Urdu awwal “first” alongside pahla and the ubiquitous hazar “thousand.”

The indigenous stock of native verbs, itself much more numerous than in Persian, is enhanced by only a few loan-formations, e.g., Urdu qabulna “to accept.”

As in Persian itself, however, loans are most commonly used to form nominal compounds with simple formants like karna “to do” for transitives and hunā “to be” for intransitives, e.g., Urdu shuru karna “to begin (trans.),” shuru hunā “to begin (intrans.)”

The influence of Persian is often reflected in the choice of marker, e.g., Urdu khana “to eat” in shikast khana “to be defeated,” reflecting Persian shekast khordan, and in such common honorific formations as Urdu far-maiye “please say” or tashrif rakhiye “please sit down,” which continue to typify the role of Persian in South Asia as the linguistic symbol of the refinement associated with the courtly traditions of Indo-Muslim culture.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded.

Director of Cinema Organization of Iran to visit Russia

From Page 1 ▶ “Russia is one of the many important countries in the region that produces numerous films in different genres,” it added.

The Cinema Organization of Iran is an affiliate of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Iran and Russia have established close relations on cultural issues.

Last September, in a letter sent to Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, Russian Culture Minster Olga Lyubimova congratulated him on his appointment as Iran’s new culture minister and invited him to attend the 9th St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, which was organized in the Russian city from November 11 to 13.

Former Iranian culture minister Abbas Salehi also attended the 7th St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum.

He also met his then-Russian counterpart Vladimir Medinsky on the sidelines of his visit to St. Petersburg.

In addition, the Iranian cities of Tehran and Qazvin played host to the Russian Cultural Days during

Director of the Cinema Organization of Iran, Mohammad Khazaei, in an undated photo. (COI)

November 2019.

Russia’s Ministry of Culture organized the cultural days in collaboration with Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization.

Groups of Russian cultural figures and officials carried out various programs during the six-day cultural festival, which was organized at Tehran’s Niavaran

Cultural Historical Complex and Qazvin’s cultural centers.

An exhibition of Russian traditional artworks was also held at the Niavaran complex.

Insects on Hilla Becher photo at Tehran museum cause media frenzy

Two silverfish can be seen on a photo by German conceptual photographer Hilla Becher at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

TEHRAN – Insects seen on a rare photo by German conceptual photographer Hilla Becher on display at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) has sparked a social media frenzy.

A video, which went viral on Sunday, shows two silverfish underneath the glass of a frame for the photo.

Silverfish are among the species of insects that love moisture. They require extremely high

amounts of moisture and humidity to survive.

In posts published on social media, Iranian cultural activists have expressed their concern over the issue.

The Persian service of ISNA covered the news in a report titled “Insects infest Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art”.

“Last night, my colleagues carried out the necessary investigations. Field investigations have been conducted and for further investigation, an expert from the outside is coming; no worries,” TMCA director Ebadreza Eslami told ISNA.

However, he added, “We ourselves have a number of concerns. Last night when we were collecting the works from the exhibition to rectify the situation, we decided to consult with experts from outside the museum, because when we find a single insect we must presume that there are more of them.”

He denied any allegation that the insects have caused damage to the artworks.

Eslami said that Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Mahmud Salari voiced his concern over the incident.

Photos by Hilla Becher, well known for her

industrial photographs, or typologies, are part of a collection of rarely-seen artworks of minimalism and conceptual art on view in an exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Earlier in March, the museum also suffered a severe blow after a thespian slightly damaged an artwork named “Oil Pool” by mistake during his performance.

The solo performance entitled “Cat of the Silk Road” was put on by Yasser Khaseb as part of a program for the opening ceremony of the Panj Ganj Exhibition organized to commemorate Iranian poet Nezami Ganjavi.

During the performance, Kahseb’s body was suspended by a belt over Japanese artist Noriyuki Haraguchi’s “Oil Pool” and a part of it was immersed in the artwork’s oil, some of which dripped on the floor.

Located in a hall of the museum, “Oil Pool” is a sculpture featuring a large metal container filled with used engine oil.

Haraguchi executed the artwork at the museum in 1977 after creating several editions across the world, including the one set up at “Documenta 6” in the German city of Kassel.

“All People Are Beautiful” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of American children’s writer Vincent Kelly’s book “All People Are Beautiful” has come to Iranian bookstores.

The book has been published at Sima-ye Sharq publishing house with its original illustrations by Cha Consul. Nazanin Sudalizadeh is the translator of the book, which was first published by Greater You Books in 2021.

An important book for early readers, it highlights the beauty of our differences.

All people are beautiful. All cultures are beautiful. All languages are beautiful. Celebrating our

Front cover of the Persian edition of Vincent Kelly’s book “All People Are Beautiful”.

differences is beautiful.

What better way to talk about diversity and acceptance than with bright colors, fun artwork and interactive ways children can enjoy while they read.

Enjoy learning a few new words in different languages and even use your creativity in some of the in-book activities.

“I’m a husband, father and an award-winning author,” Kelly wrote in a brief biography of himself on his website.

“All People Are Beautiful” won the Spring 2021 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards for Children’s Literature.

Salvation at the Dawn of Mab’ath

“The Motherhood Story,” a special program, was held with a focus on the book “Salvation at the Dawn of Mab’ath.”

A session for the analysis and review of the book “Salvation at the Dawn of Maba’at,” written by Behnaz Qaredaghi and published by Khate Moqadam, which is based on the memoirs of the martyr Majid Salmanian, was held.

In this session, the book’s author, Behnaz Qaredaghi, gave an explanation of how the writing process for the work began. After the publication of her previous book, she claimed that General Soleimani suggested she write and publish books about the martyrs who guarded Hazrat Zainab’s shrine, particularly about those who died during the Khan Tuman operation and whose bodies are still missing.

“Despite my best efforts, I was unable to locate

Shahid’s family’s address or phone number. Mr. Sarhangi’s efforts eventually led to the discovery of the martyr’s mother’s telephone, and it was at that point that I started interviewing her and writing the book,” said the author.

“I quickly realized that this family was different from any other martyr family I had ever met. This family was living in difficult circumstances due to the father’s 80% veteran status of his nerves and psyche, as well as the damage chemical bombs had caused to his lungs. Besides, the mother who works while caring for her husband in a patient and kind manner,” she added.

The book’s author said that despite all the challenges, the book had been published, and she hoped that others would read it and realize how much our security depended on the sacrifices of great men.