

Report

Washington should take the deal on the table

TEHRAN— While Iran committed to the deadline set by the European Union and sent its concluding decision to the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Monday, the United States has not yet announced what its response will be.

On Thursday night, a European diplomat told a prominent American journalist that the EU is expecting to receive Washington's response "any moment now."

However, as quoted by Laura Rozen, the European official suggested that the response could be received Friday.

In an article published in Politico on Friday, Barbara Slavin, Director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, said, "There are many reasons why Iranian officials have been hesitant about whether to accept a new European Union proposal for reviving the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)."

She then noted, "The dominant political faction in Iran is full of officials who opposed the plan and saw their views vindicated when the United States withdrew from the deal in 2018 — while Iran was in full compliance. And they are understandably wary of trusting the promises of another U.S. administration."

What Slavin says is also true about the U.S. political system. Take Senator Jim Risch for example. A ranking member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Risch is one of the main opponents of reviving the JCPOA.

In a series of false claims, Risch claimed that the text of the agreement could be threatening to Washington's allies.

"...These demands from #Iran are blackmail and would go down in history as a major Biden foreign policy failure, coming on the heels of the disastrous #Afghanistan withdrawal. Not to mention this deal will threaten the safety of our partners and Americans in the region," he claimed.

This could serve as a good wake up call to the Western media and to motivate the White House to respond to Iran's demands as soon as possible.

The EU has described Iran's package proposal as "constructive." Tehran's response to the EU's ideas paves the way for reaching a final agreement.

It is also important to note that Iran has not raised any new demands in its response. It has also provided solutions for some remaining issues, some of which were previously supported by the EU.

Meanwhile, the Western media are continuing with their false narratives to portray Iran's demands as maximalist and beyond JCPOA. Among those false narratives are the false claim of requesting compensation from the U.S. ▶ Page 2

Iran finish third at Islamic Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iran finished in third place in the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games held in Konya, Turkey from Aug. 9 to 18.

The closing ceremony of the Games, with the participation of 4,200 athletes from 54 countries, was held at the Selçuk University 15 July Stadium. The ceremony started with the hoisting of the Turkish flag accompanied by the National Anthem. After the flags of the participating countries were paraded, light and fireworks displays were held.

Turkey finished top the standing with 341 medals, including 145 golds, 107 silvers and 89 bronzes

Uzbekistan placed second with 158 medals, including 51 golds, 42 silvers and 65 bronzes.

Iran picked up 133 medals to finish third. The Iranian sportspersons claimed 39 gold medals, 44 silver medals and 50 bronze medals.

Iran had sent 257 athletes to the Games.

The Iranian delegation also came third in the previous edition held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

1953 coup: America is still the same



TEHRAN – 69 years after the U.S.-orchestrated coup that changed the course of Iran's modern history, the U.S. government still pursues its ill-advised policies against Iran.

On August 15, 1953, the U.S., together with Britain plotted and orchestrated a coup that installed a ruthless regime in Iran and played

a major role in shaping the Iranian perceptions of America.

The coup, code-named Operation Ajax in the U.S. and Operation Boot in Britain, reinstalled the stumbling Pahlavi dynasty and ensured brutal Pahlavi suppression of the Iranian people for almost 26 years. The final

emancipation occurred in 1979 when millions of suppressed Iranian people entrusted Imam Khomeini with leading the first revolution in a true sense of the word in the modern history of Iran.

But even after the 1979 Islamic revolution, which eliminated U.S. presence in ▶ Page 3

‘There are a lot of potentials to boost trade between Iran, Malaysia’

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Malaysia's Charge D'affaires ad intrim in Tehran Mohd Nizam Halimi said that there are a lot of potentials to improve and increase trade between Iran and Malaysia.

Making the remarks in an interview con-

ducted by the Tehran Times on the sidelines of a ceremony to celebrate ASEAN Day 2022 in Tehran on Tuesday, he said: "At the moment trade relations between Malaysia and Iran is very good; last year the total amount of trade was about six hundred million US dollars."

"Most of the products coming from Malay-

sia are palm oil and also our rubber products are exported to Iran", he stated.

"There are a lot of routes to improve and increase this trade, especially we can, I mean there is a lot of areas that we can potentially cooperate in the field of tourism, scientific research, and also cultural activities." ▶ Page 4

Iran won't accept additional issues in JCPOA: speaker

TEHRAN – Speaker of Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has said that Iran will not accept any other issues to be added to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA.

Speaking at a gathering in the city of Hamedan, western Iran, Qalibaf stressed that if the other parties do not abide by the nuclear agreement justified by the United Nations, there is no justification for Iran to abide by its commitments.

He underlined that Iran will not allow additional demands in the nuclear agreement.

The remarks by the top lawmaker come as Iran and the U.S. are closer than ever before to restoring the JCPOA ditched by former president Donald Trump in May 2018.

"After the signing of the nuclear agreement during the period of the previous administration, the U.S. president at ▶ Page 3



Bombing at evening prayers in Kabul kills 21

A bombing at a mosque in Afghanistan's capital Kabul during evening prayers on Wednesday killed at least 21 people, including a prominent cleric, and wounded at least 33, police said. Several children were reported to be among the wounded.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani condemned the terrorist attack. Kanaani also sympathized with the bereaved families and wished immediate recovery for the injured.

Muharram rituals in Kashan attended by 130 foreign travelers

TEHRAN —More than 130 foreign travelers attended mourning ceremonies in the tourist city of Kashan, Isfahan province's tourism chief said on Thursday.

"Over 130 foreign nationals traveled to Kashan to visit Muharram rituals during the first 20 days of the [lunar] month," Alireza Izadi was quoted by the CHTN as saying.

In addition, countless domestic travelers visited Kashan during the mentioned period to attend various mourning rituals held in the

ancient city, the official said.

"We intend to help promote religious tourism in Kashan more than in the past," he said.

Over the past couple of years, Yazd, Meybod, Isfahan, and Kashan have been among the cities which hosted the highest numbers of foreign tourists on the ninth and the tenth days of Muharram (Tasua and Ashura) when the mourning ceremonies reach their climax and a lively atmosphere prevails in all corners of the country to commemorate the martyr-

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Report

Improvement of environmental indicators; dream or reality?

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – "Improving environmental performance indicators by at least five steps per year" was approved by the Expediency Council a month ago; however, some experts believe that it is not very possible considering the existing conditions, but if even half of it is realized, it is promising.

In a meeting of the Expediency Council on Wednesday, it was decided that the performance indicators of the environment be improved by at least five steps per year, at least 10 percent of air pollution of the metropolises be reduced and the effects of climate change to be contained using national, regional and international capacities in the seventh national development plan.

But according to environmental expert Naser Moghadasi, the decision is not implementable.

There is no national index to measure the performance of the environment in accordance with the country's conditions, and this important issue should be prioritized by the relevant institutions and the cooperation of scientific and research centers, he explained.

He went on to note that the most important environmental performance index that is widely cited as a reference at the global level is the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which is compiled and published every two years by Yale University. ▶ Page 7

Love Is Folly festival to screen movies from Iran

TEHRAN – Four Iranian movies will be competing in the Love Is Folly International Film Festival in Bulgaria.

"The Future" by Amir Purkian, "The Inheritance" by Sadeq Sadeq-daghighi, "The Contrary Route" by Abolfazl Jalili and "Sea Boys by Afshin Hashemi and Hossein Jami will be screened in different sections of the 30th edition of the festival, which will take place in Varna from August 26 to September 4.

Starring Pantea Bahram and Kambiz Dirbaz, "The Future" tells the turbulent story of a contemporary family, in which Saeid, a 45-year-old man and the manager of a construction company, lives with his wife, Sara, and his seven-year-old daughter. His wife is extremely traditionalist and his daughter has diabetes.

"The Inheritance" is about Adel, a 16-year-old boy whose parents have divorced and his mother lives abroad. He lives a very happy and extravagant life next to his father in Tehran, until his relatives who live in another province ask his father to remarry. ▶ Page 8

Washington should take the deal on the table



From page 1 ► Another point that is worth of consideration is that the same media outlets that described Iran's response as "constructive" are now accusing Tehran of creating obstacles in the way of restoring the agreement. This comes while Iran's reasonable demands are only based on its past experience of trusting the Obama administration.

Therefore, Iran's reservations are perfectly reasonable, but let's remember that it is now the United States that has stalled responding to Iran's proposal. The ball is way into the U.S. court. What is an "obstacle" to reviving the deal is that the United States is domestically divided and is incapable of making a major political decision.

Additionally, the Israeli regime's premier Yair Lapid has sent a letter to the White House to "remind" Washington of his red lines. This is an old tactic employed by the Israelis whenever the negotiators are close to a breakthrough. Israelis keep meddling in possible revival of the JCPOA, and Biden is too weak to repel them.

It is crystal clear that the Israeli lobbyists, such as AIPAC, impact her decision.

In her article, Slavin wrote, "At a time when the world is confronting multiple crises, Iran has the power to defuse an issue of utmost importance to regional stability and the cause of non-proliferation. The Raisi government should seize this opportunity before it disappears." The Tehran Times would like to recommend Mrs. Slavin to send a wakeup call to the White House as well, as the time is running short.

Meanwhile, Western media is trying to portray the possible unfreezing of 75 billion of Iran's blocked assets in South Korea as an

"American favor". It is important to remember that Seoul is engaged in pure hostage-taking by refusing to unfreeze Iranian assets from 2018. It is also important to remember that Seoul is clearly getting instructions from the U.S. government. These assets should have been unfrozen long ago, and conditioning its release to the JCPOA revival is pure hostage-taking.

When asked about the Israelis' hurried letter to the United States, Ned Price, spokesman for the United States' State Department, said the U.S. and Israel have "tactical differences" when it comes to the JCPOA.

"It is no question that we have tactical differences with our Israeli partners when it comes to this question, the JCPOA. There is also no question that when it comes to the strategic objective, the overarching objective, we see entirely eye to eye," Price said, implicitly confirming that preserving Lapid's interests are more worthwhile to the U.S. than preserving its own people's interests.

According to Axios, in his letter, Lapid suggested Biden to "walk away" from the negotiations table.

Russia's top negotiator Mikhail Ulyanov has taken a more positive approach, saying that an agreement could be reached before September 1.

According to Ulyanov, there are currently three texts for reviving the JCPOA and the EU is trying to bring the views closer. He also said that Russia is under the impression that Washington wants to resolve other outstanding issues not related to the JCPOA.

Ulyanov made the remarks in a presser on Friday.

"The U.S. administration lives in a completely different world, because what was written in the U.S.-proposed text is not achievable," Ulyanov was quoted as saying.

He then noted that no one has been able to prove that Iran has missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The decision is entirely up to Biden. He can take the suggestion of his Israeli friends and choose to walk away in total shame, or he can at least have one achievement in his tenure before the 2024 presidential elections.

common goals to help stabilize the region.

Hakim also pointed to the role of Iraq in mediating talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying it will have positive effect on the nations of the region.

So far, Iraq has hosted five rounds of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi crown prince has suggested dialogue between the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran after dozens of Iranian students attacked the Saudi embassy in Tehran in January 2016 in protest to the execution of 40 pro-democracy activists.

In the end, Hakim stressed the importance of making satisfactory decisions for the Arab nations at the upcoming meeting of Arab heads of state in Algeria to heal the wounds of the Arab world, emphasizing the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the importance of this issue in unifying Arab nations.

TEHRAN - In a phone conversation with his Omani counterpart on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated that if Iran's red lines are upheld, a new phase will begin in Vienna, the venue of the nuclear talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

Amir Abdollahian and Sayyid Badr al Busaidi, the foreign minister of Oman, addressed bilateral ties and topics of shared interest in the regional and global arenas as well as Tehran's negotiations with the international community to lift sanctions on Iran.

Late Monday, Iran said it had supplied the European Union's JCPOA coordinator Josep Borrell with its final decision on the bloc's proposals for reviving the deal. Iran added it was now the U.S.'s responsibility to show realism and flexibility if a final accord was truly desired.

The EU stated that it had received Iran's answer and that it was reviewing it with the other parties to the agreement and the U.S. officials.

The chief Iranian diplomat highlighted that no side can definitively discuss reaching a

New phase to begin in Vienna if Iran's red lines are honored, FM says



good and permanent agreement on the resurrection of the 2015 nuclear deal in Vienna until all concerns have been resolved.

He also praised Oman's positive contribution to the Vienna negotiations on the renewal of the historic nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action (JCPOA), and the lifting of sanctions on Tehran.

In reference to Muscat's helpful involvement during the negotiations to ease sanctions on Iran, Amir Abdollahian expressed gratitude for Oman's efforts to bring the perspectives of various parties present at the negotiations closer together.

MP: Talks with Saudi Arabia has reached good stage

TEHRAN— A senior parliamentarian says talks between Tehran and Riyadh to reestablish political ties cut in January 2016 has reached a good stage.

"Based on the information we have received, we have reached a very good level at this stage," Abolfazl Amouei, spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis (parliament), told the Mehr News Agency.

So far Iraq has hosted five round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The talks have been at security level. However, recently the Iraqi foreign minister announced that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has suggested that the talks be held at the level of foreign ministers.

Amouei expressed hope that diplomatic talks between the two countries would resume soon.

"This can definitely be a prelude to the revival of political relations," he underscored.

The legislator stated that the government has followed the path of dialogue to restore relations with Saudi Arabia.

"Although Iran, as an influential country in the region, may criticize the political positions of Saudi Arabia on regional and international issues, this will not negate the existence of a bilateral relationship to pursue issues of mutual interest and exchange opinions on various topics," he remarked.

The MP added Iran is seriously following negotiations with the Persian Gulf countries. "Building, strengthening and revitalizing bilateral relations is an important issue that takes efforts and time. We should not expect these goals to be achieved immediately, but in all issues, our main focus is on maintaining and securing national interests," he assessed.

'Iran seeking to neutralize and lift sanctions simultaneously'

Rushdie's attacker denies any link with IRGC, says he acted alone

TEHRAN — The New Jersey man, who stabbed Salman Rushdie in western New York on August 12, has denied any connection to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), saying he acted entirely on his own.

In an exclusive interview with The New York Post on Wednesday, Hadi Matar, however, hailed Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution.

He acknowledged that he doubted the author would survive the attack.

"I guess I was startled when I heard he survived," Matar said in a video interview from the Chautauqua County Jail.

The 24-year-old refused to say

whether he was influenced by the late Imam Khomeini's fatwa, which called for murder of Rushdie in 1989 because of his blasphemous book titled "The Satanic Verses".

"I respect the Ayatollah. I think he's a great person. That's as far as I will say about that," Matar remarked, noting that he only "read like two pages" of Rushdie's divisive novel.

"I read a couple pages. I didn't read the whole thing cover to cover," he said.

He said he was inspired to go to Chautauqua after seeing a tweet about Rushdie's visit sometime in the winter.

"I don't like the person. I don't

think he's a very good person," he said about Rushdie. "I don't like him. I don't like him very much.

"He's someone who attacked Islam, he attacked their beliefs, the belief systems."

The Indian-born British-American novelist, known for his blasphemous views about Islam, has touched nerves during his career.

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

The book has been prohibited in Iran, India, Bangladesh, Sudan, South

After receiving the U.S. response, he emphasized, if Iran's redlines are respected and its economic gains are assured, a new phase would commence in Vienna, pointing to Iran's goodwill and commitment in forging a good and durable deal.

"After receiving U.S. comments and opinions, we would enter a new stage in the Vienna talks if Iran's economic benefits from the agreement are secured and our red lines are observed," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that unless everything is agreed upon, "we cannot speak confidently about coming to a good and durable deal."

Oman's foreign minister, for his part, expressed hope that the Vienna talks would result in a satisfying resolution with the collaboration of all parties.

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized the need for release of the Iranian pilgrim who was detained by Saudi authorities while performing this year's Hajj rites.

Busaidi said that he will strive to secure the release of the Iranian pilgrim within the context of the two nations' cordial ties.

asserted that some of the agreements have entered the implementation phase, including the gas swap deal between Iran, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

Since the beginning of the Raisi administration good steps have been taken to strengthen cooperation with the outside world, especially with neighbors, Amouei underlined.

"Negotiations with the Persian Gulf (states) are also ongoing. Most of these actions are carried out in order to neutralize the sanctions. We see these steps to create new options and opportunities in the country's foreign policy," he added.

The legislator went on to explain about the Vienna negotiations intended to remove the sanctions imposed on Iran, "Nevertheless, the path of lifting sanctions has been followed, although we have not seen an agreement yet."

The MP then stated that regardless of the effect of sanctions on national economy, sanctions as a whole is a cruel act.

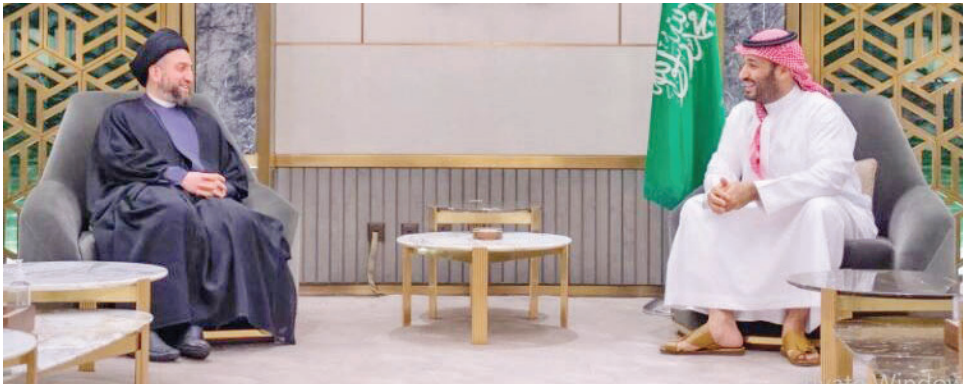
"They cannot boycott a nation from its basic rights. However, we should not wait for the lifting of the sanctions and this policy has been strictly followed in this government," Amouei opined.

There are good opportunities ahead of Iran, and Tehran should use them wisely, the legislator asserted.

"... different aspects should be seriously considered. Of course, the consolidation of trade from the North-South corridor is a sign of attention to recent events in the region," the senior MP outlined.

If Iran's cooperation with Russia leads to the completion of the North-South corridor, it can also strengthen the geopolitical position of Iran, Amouei underscored.

Iraqi Shia leader reaffirms support for JCPOA revival in meeting with MBS



TEHRAN — In a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Friday, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, said reaching a deal in the Vienna talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal should be viewed as a possible opportunity in the future.

According to CNN, citing the official Saudi news agency, the two sides also discussed Saudi-Iraq relations and a number of issues of common significance.

The meeting was attended by Khaled bin Salman, Deputy Minister of Defense of Saudi Arabia; Musa'id bin Muhammad Al-Aiban, Saudi National Security Adviser; Abdul Aziz Al-Shammari, Saudi Ambassador to Iraq; and Sayyid Mohsen Al-Hakim, Deputy Chairman of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement.

Hakim went on to say that the Vienna talks should be viewed as an opportunity for all parties to look at the future positively and seek

with Iran, according to the ministry.

Relations between Seoul and Tehran remain strained over \$7 billion in Iranian fund held in two Korean banks under U.S. sanctions reimposed after then-U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear agreement in 2018. Tehran has long demanded that Seoul release the fund.

TEHRAN— South Korea's vice foreign minister made back-to-back phone calls Friday with top U.S. and European Union negotiators involved in talks aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, according to his office.

First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong spoke on the phone with U.S. special envoy for Iran Robert Malley and EU mediator Enrique

Mora to discuss the latest developments in negotiations to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), according to the ministry.

During the phone conversation, Cho reaffirmed Seoul's support for the JCPOA and voiced hope that an agreement may help resolve South Korea's outstanding problems

S.Korean diplomat consults with US, EU negotiators over Iran's frozen assets

Raisi says Iran considers ethnic diversity an advantage

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi held a meeting on Thursday with the Sunni members of the Iranian parliament in which he praised Iran's ethnic diversity.

Raisi described the diversity of ethnic groups and religions in the country as an advantage and an opportunity for the Islamic Republic and said, "Attention to this valuable opportunity and advantage will definitely lead to the country's growth and development."

He added the fact that about 11,000 Sunnis were martyred during the Sacred Defense shows that "our Sunnis are pious and supporter of the Islamic Revolution, and we all have a duty and feel responsible for solving their concerns and problems."

The Sacred Defense refers to Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s.



Raisi went on to say that eliminating poverty in all parts of the country is the duty of the government and parliament, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

"It does not matter where this poverty is... and with what ethnic and religious composition," he pointed out, noting that his Popular Administration is working hard to administer justice and eliminate poverty "from all

deprived areas of the country".

Referring to the issues raised by some representatives about unemployment and housing problem in some Sunni populated parts of the country, President Raisi said reducing "unemployment and creating employment is a priority for the government. In this regard, it is necessary that all our efforts should be focused on giving people hope for

the country's valuable assets and tapping them."

Ayatollah Raisi went on to say that resolving people's housing problems, especially in rural areas, is on the agenda of the government, and "we have emphasized to the relevant authorities to provide facilities" for the purpose.

Regarding the implementation of provincial tour resolutions, which was raised by one of the representatives, the president also clarified, "The implementation of provincial tour ratifications is mandatory and the second round of these trips will begin with the condition of following up on the implementation of these resolutions. In addition to the ministers, the governors and the vice-president for executive affairs are also required to follow up and supervise the implementation of provincial tour resolutions."

Iranian diplomat meets Islamic Jihad representative

TEHRAN – An Iranian diplomat with the Iranian embassy in Lebanon has met with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's representative to Lebanon.

The Iranian diplomat, Karamullah Moshtaqi, who is a political advisor to the embassy, met with the Islamic Jihad official, Ihsan Ataya, at the latter's office in Beirut.

The Iranian diplomat relayed Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani's congratulations to Ataya on the of the martyrdom of the members of the Palestinian resistance movement in the recent flare-up with Israel, according to Al Alam.

Moshtaqi saluted the Mujahideen of the Al-Quds Brigades, praising the brigades' performance in confronting Israel's aggression.

During the meeting, it was insisted on the importance of the role of the "Islamic Jihad Movement" in managing the battle of "the unity of the battlefields", its merit in leading the military confrontation against the barbaric aggression on Gaza, and response to the assassination of Taysir al-Jabari by striking Tel Aviv in order to create an equation in protecting the resistance leaders from the Israeli targeted killings.

The meeting also discussed ways to prevent the enemy from achieving its goals, and thwarting its attempts to sow discord between the Jihad movement and the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza.

During its three-day aggression against the Gaza Strip from August 5 to 7, Israel killed more than 40 Palestinian civilians, including 16 children. After the unprovoked aggression against the Gaza Strip, Israel accepted an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire that put an end to its bombing of civilian homes.

1953 coup: America is still the same

From Page 1 ► Iran entirely, the White House continued its efforts to bring down the revolutionary government in Iran. They dispatched military troops to Iran, supported anti-revolutionary coup plotters and the Saddam Hussein regime, and imposed sanctions on Iran which continue to this day.

The U.S. intervention in Iran is part of a broader trend in American foreign policy which is centered on toppling regimes that refuse to become allied to America. The United States has waged nearly 400 military interventions since its founding in 1776, according to new research published this month that studied available databases and other resources on the matter.

According to the study by the Military Intervention Project: A New Dataset on U.S. Military Interventions, 1776–2019, half

of those conflicts and other uses of force occurred between 1950 and 2019.

More than a quarter of them have taken place since the end of the Cold War. Out of the nearly 400 military interventions, 34 percent have been in Latin America and the Caribbean; 23 percent in East Asia and the Pacific region; 14 percent in West Asia and North Africa; and 13 percent in Europe and Central Asia.

John Bolton, former national security adviser to the Trump administration, has recently boasted about plotting coups in other countries.

In a July interview with CNN, Bolton underlined it was wrong to describe Trump's attempt to stay in power after the 2020 election as a coup. Bolton said former U.S. President Donald Trump was not competent enough to pull off a

we believe in ending this unjust war," he noted, according to Al Alam.

Qalibaf continued, "If they do not fulfill their obligations, there is no justification for us to fulfill our obligations in the nuclear field, so we will deal with the nuclear issue only within the framework of guarantees, unless they fulfill their obligations."

He said, "When they seek to continue the unjust sanctions, why do we not act on our legal right within the framework of the agency? Some said that things would happen after this law was

implemented, but when we stood strong nothing happened [in response to the law] even with the shutdown of the cameras [at some nuclear facilities], and as a result, America returned to the negotiating table."

The top legislator added, "If they address the problems of the past, everything will be fixed."

Qalibaf stated, "If they comply with the obligations, we will also comply and continue, but our problem will not be solved by lifting the ban, and the ban must be aborted."

Javanmardi among title favorites at Changwon 2022 World Cup: IPC

TEHRAN – In pistol events of the Changwon 2022 World Cup, Iran's top shooter Sareh Javanmardi would be aiming to return to winning ways.

The three-time Paralympic champion will be the title favorite in P2 – women's 10m air pistol SH1 which will also have some young names contesting like Rubina Francis and Sumedha Pathak from India.

As many as 146 players from 18 nations will be in action in the World Cup that will run until 24 August, Paralympic.org wrote.

Changwon 2022 is the first World Cup in the four-year hosting agreement that will see the Korean city as part of the World Shooting Para Sport season through to 2025.

Bam Khatoon to face Sogdiana-Win AFC Women's Club C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran's Bam Khatoon football club and Sogdiana-W of Uzbekistan are eager to hit the ground running when they open their AFC Women's Club Championship 2022 West campaign on Saturday.

Both teams will be making their debut in the pilot tournament, and will face off again on Tuesday to decide the title.

Bam Khatoon are the powerhouse of Iranian women football, having won eight Women's Football League titles. They will head into the tournament with momentum on their side, having again emerged domestic champion in June.

Led by head coach Marziyeh Jafari, Bam Khatoon prepared well for the tournament.

"This competition helps women's football, and I'm really glad to be competing here," said Jafari.

The Bam Khatoon players are also looking forward to the challenge, especially after having prepared well.

"We've had a good training camp, and we want to get the best results in these coming two matches," said Atefeh Ramizanizadeh.

Women's volleyball team leave for 2022 AVC Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's women's volleyball team left Tehran on Friday for Pasig, the Philippines to participate at the 2022 Asian Women's Volleyball Cup, called the 2022 AVC Cup for Women.

Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam and China.

Team Melli Banovan will kick off the campaign on Monday with a match against South Korea.

Pool B consists of Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei and Australia.

Iran's women's team, headed by Italian coach Alessandra Campedelli, have recently won a silver medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games and are motivated to continue their good run.

The 2022 AVC Cup for Women will be the seventh edition of the Asian Cup, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF). The tournament will be held in Pasig, Philippines, from August 21 to 29.

As hosts, Philippines automatically qualified for the tournament, while the remaining nine teams, qualified from the 2019 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship in Seoul, South Korea.

Iran win U20 World Championships team title

TEHRAN – Iran freestyle wrestling team defended their title at the U20 World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria on Wednesday.

Iran finished with 159 points, 17 ahead of the U.S. which was the leader after the first day of the competition.

India finished at the top for the first time in the history of U20 Worlds, claiming the third position with 112 points.

It won seven medals with six bronze and one silver; the haul being the most for the nation in any edition.

Asian champion Amirhossein Firouzpour won the gold medal at 92kg, thus making it two in a row as he won the gold medal at 86kg in Ufa as well.

The second gold for Iran was won by Amirreza Masoumi as he defeated Mahendra GAIKWAD (IND) 13-2 in the 125kg final. For the second straight year, Masoumi has won a world title as he clinched the U17 gold in Budapest last year.

Masoumi, son of 2009 world silver medalist Fardin, unleashed his attacking style in Sofia and won all his bouts via technical superiority.

Armin Habibzadeh also lost to Japanese Yuto Nishiuchi 5-3 in the final match of the 61kg final.

Sobhan Yari had won a gold in the 79kg on Tuesday.

Ahmad Mohammadnejhad in 57kg, Hossein Mohammad Aghaei in 70kg, and Amirali Azarpira had also claimed three bronze medals.

Iran maintain unbeaten run at Asian U18 Volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran emerged as Pool A winners here following a 3-0 victory against Chinese Taipei in their last match of the preliminary round in the 14th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship at the Federation Hall.

Iran, bronze medallists at the last year's U19 World Championship, on Thursday performed brilliantly to overpower Chinese Taipei in comfortable three-setter 25-15, 25-18, 25-16 to top Pool A.

Iran are due to take on Thailand, finishing fourth in Pool B, in the Saturday's cross quarterfinals.

Seyed Matin Hosseini chipped in with 17 points including 12 attacks for Iran and teammate Mohammd Reza Alejalil assisted with 15 points. Lin Ting-Wei led Chinese Taipei with 8 points.

"I don't want to say that we played better because Chinese Taipei is a good team but I can say that they were different from us in terms of height. We could control the game with good service and we had good receptions as well. We will try to improve day by day and we are grateful to the Iranian spectators for their support," Iran head coach Reza Vakilil Farjad said.

The four winning teams on Saturday will not only advance to the semifinals of the topflight championship, but also secure their places in the next year's FIVB Volleyball Boys' U-19 World Championship.

Esteghlal defeat Malavan in IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team came from a 1-0 loss to beat Malavan 3-1 in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Thursday.

Sajad Bazgir scored for the hosts in the 37th minute but Aref Gholami leveled the score in the 57th minute.

Substitute Mehdi Ghaedi made it 2-1 in the 79th minute and Mehdi Mehdipour scored the third goal from the penalty spot in the injury time in Bandar Anzali's Sirous Ghayeghran Stadium.

Elsewhere, Mes Rafsanjan and Gol Gohar shared the spoils in a goalless draw and Sepahan defeated Nassaji 2-1 in Isfahan.

Iran won't accept additional issues in JCPOA: speaker

From Page 1 ► that time did not fulfill his obligations and increased the embargo measures against Iran, ignoring the resolution signed by the United Nations," he said.

Averting that America practices arrogance and bullying, he said, "If we do not stand up to this country, they will not stop either, so we must strengthen our capacity in this regard."

"Today in the economic war, the first and most important law passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly was the law to lift sanctions, because

Tehran, Islamabad to broaden trade, maritime ties



TEHRAN – At the end of the 21st Session of the Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission which was held in Islamabad on Thursday, the two sides inked agreements to expand relations, especially in trade and maritime areas.

Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi and Pakistani Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar inked four memorandums of understanding in the fields of trade, tourism, maritime, and media, IRNA reported.

On the sidelines of the signing ceremony, the Pakistani official said the two neighboring countries are expected to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) within the next six months amid efforts to boost their bilateral trade to up to \$4 billion per year.

Iran and Pakistan are currently on a preferential trade arrangement under which the two countries have sought to reduce some trade barriers and tariffs.

Iran to hold six expos in Qatar during World Cup

TEHRAN – During the World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Iran will hold six exhibitions in Doha in a bid to promote Iranian-made products in the Persian Gulf littoral state.

Five exhibitions in the fields of food, furniture, construction materials, hoteling, and engineering will be held under the supervision of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, IRIB quoted Omid Qalibaf, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, as saying.

Another exhibition of carpets and handicrafts is also going to be held by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts during the World Cup, he added.

The value of Iran's export to Qatar is expected to rise to \$1 billion within two years, Khorshid Gazderazi, the vice chairman of the Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee, said in July.

Qamar was quoted as saying by the Associated Press of Pakistan that Islamabad and Tehran will, in the meantime, exchange trade lists for various sectors of their economies while trying to further reduce tariffs on exports and imports to reach a reasonable framework for signing an FTA.

The two countries agreed on holding the 22nd edition of the event in Tehran next year.

13% rise in trade

The value of Iran's non-oil export to Pakistan rose 13 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), from that of the same quarter in the previous year, Ruhollah Latifi, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said in July.

Iran exported commodities worth \$279 million to Pakistan in the three-month period of this year, he noted.

The country also imported goods valued at \$196 million from its neighbor in the first quarter of this year, which was 208 percent higher than the imports in the first quarter of the previous year, the official added.

Pakistan was Iran's sixth major export destination and fourth main source of import in the first quarter of the current year.

Increasing non-oil exports to neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

“Given the satisfactory results obtained as a result of Iranian trade delegation's trip to Qatar, Iran's exports value to this country is expected to increase to \$1 billion within the next two years.”

On June 6, Iran and Qatar inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the end of the eighth Joint Economic Committee meeting in Doha to outline avenues for future cooperation.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani who co-chaired the committee meeting.

This memorandum determines the framework of cooperation in various fields including transit, transportation, industry and trade, energy, customs, and free zones, tourism, culture, agriculture, sports, etc.

The value of Iran's export to Qatar is expected to rise to \$1 billion within two years.

‘There is possibility to set up 1m household solar power plants in country’

TEHRAN- As stated by the chairman of the board of directors of Association of Iranian Manufacturers and Suppliers of Renewable Energy Products and Services (known as SATKA), there is the possibility for the establishment of one million household solar power plants in the country.

Hamid-Reza Salehi said that setting up these solar panels, 5,000 megawatts (MW) will be added to the country's electricity generation capacity.

The number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is increasing noticeably as Iranian households and small industries are embracing the

new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

On July 22, President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated the country's biggest solar panel production unit in central Markazi Province.

This unit is currently able to produce solar panels with a total capacity of 500 megawatts (MW) annually, and in the final development phase, it will be able to produce solar panels for the annual supply of 1500 MW of electricity.

Considering that some components of solar panels are currently imported by this factory, the production unit is planned to manufacture all the necessary equipment and parts needed in the



production of solar panels by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025).

The company is also establishing the country's biggest solar farm with a total capacity of 100 MW in Markazi Province.

Iran's Energy Ministry has recently issued permits for the construction of solar farms with the capacity of four gigawatts (GW) across the country.

Back in April, the ministry's

‘There are a lot of potentials to boost trade between Iran, Malaysia’

From page 1 ► Asked about the main challenges in the way of trade between the two countries, the official said, “Of course, aside from sanctions that make a lot of issues, there are some challenges that we are facing not only to Malaysian companies but also from Iranian companies coming to Malaysia.”

“If I may say, one of the challenges aside from the banking restriction, is also we need to identify what kind of products that we could import from Iran more, because right now the trade balance is seen in favor of Malaysia, because of our palm oil export and our timber and also rubber products export.”

“So, we need to identify the specialty of Iranian products that Malaysia could import more into the country.”

Answering a question about establishing barter trade between the two sides under the condition of sanctions, he said, “Of course, barter is one of the mechanisms that we could consider to increase our trade with Iran, but as I mentioned earlier, the challenges are to identify the products, if you



want to import palm oil from Malaysia, we have to identify what type of product we could import

from Iran as part of this barter mechanism.”

“We don't have any barter trade with Iran at the moment, but we are exploring the possibility and potentials to have this barter trade as well.”

Asked about the prospect of Iran-ASEAN trade, Mohd Nizam Halimi said, “We have a very good environment for economic cooperation with Iran.”

ASEAN is one of the biggest economies in the world, and there are a lot of possibility and potential areas that Iran and ASEAN can work together, especially developing trade and also economic relations.

And asked about the barriers in the way of trade, he said, “Of course, challenges are with the unilateral sanctions by a country against Iran. So, they restrict the activity, the economy, and also activities between the ASEAN members and Iran; however, if the sanctions would be potentially lifted, and the nuclear deal is potentially revived, it would open more chances and possibilities for ASEAN countries and Iran to increase the [trade] figures.”

352 idle industrial units revived since late March

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced that 352 idle industrial units have been revived in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Ali Rasoulion has previously announced that 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the 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,” Rasoulion 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 for establishing 26 new industrial parks and zones across the country in the previous year, he added.

In late February, the official said that 900 consultants from the private sector and knowledge-based companies were selected



in the form of industry clinics across the country to recognize the weaknesses of industrial units with the aim of reactivating stagnant units or units that are operating below capacity.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government is currently following in the industry sector.

Iran's rising oil export could be increased more this month, trackers say

TEHRAN- Iran increased its oil exports in June and July and could raise them further this month by offering a deeper discount to Russian crude for its main buyer China, firms tracking the flows said, Reuters reported on Thursday.

Despite U.S. sanctions Iran has boosted oil exports, largely to China, during President Joe Biden's term, but shipments have recently slowed due to competition with Russian crude.

“Iran has been exporting more since the new U.S. administration – oil, products and petrochemical goods,” Sara Vakhshouri of Energy consultant SVB International said.

And while high oil prices have reduced pressure on Tehran to do a nuclear deal, if talks to resurrect one succeed it would allow Iran to boost sales beyond China, to former buyers in South Korea and Europe.

Iran's oil ministry did not reply to a request for comment.

Chinese crude imports could recover in August

as the pricing advantage of Russian oil, displaced by falling demand in Europe on concerns about sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, wanes, Emma Li, analyst at Vortexa Analytics, added.

“Iranian crude was facing strong competition from Russian Urals in July as the non-sanctioned barrels were offered at similar discount levels. However, as the price difference of the two widened, Chinese refiners may turn back to cheaper Iranian barrels in August,” Li said.

By importing heavily discounted Russian and Iranian crude, China is boosting the competitiveness of its economy versus the West which is paying much higher prices for alternative crude grades from the West Asia, Africa and the United States.

According to OPEC's latest monthly report, Iran produced 2.574 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in June, registering a 21,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the previous month.

Iran produced 2.543 million bpd of crude oil in May

based on secondary sources, the report read.

As per OPEC data, the Islamic Republic's average crude output for the second quarter of 2022 stood at 2.560 million bpd indicating a 32,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the first quarter of the year.

The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2021 at 2.392 million bpd, while the average output in 2020 was reported to be 1.991 million bpd.

The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by \$0.37 in June, to register a 0.3 percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$115.85 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to May's \$115.48 per barrel.

The country's average heavy crude price was \$105.14 from the beginning of 2022 up to the report's publishing date, in comparison to \$64.31 in the previous year's same period.

Mining machinery in need of renovation

TEHRAN- The vice chairman of Parliament's Industries Committee said that the mining machineries of the country are in need of renovation.

Javad Hosseini-Kia said the domestic manufacturers are not able to manufacture the number of machineries required in the country.

Regarding the import of machinery in the mining sector, he said: “Mining machineries are manufactured in the country, but unfortunately there are not enough large industries that manufacture mining machinery and their production is also limited, so they cannot meet all the needs in the field of mining machinery.

Also in mid-July, the deputy, industry, mining and trade minister for mines and mining industries said that there are more than 15,000 mining machines, which are over 20 years old, in the fleet of mining industries of the country, which need renovation and replacement.

Reza Mohtashami said that some of these machines can be renovated, but the rest should be replaced through imports.

He said the liberalization of the import of mining machinery is only limited to machinery that cannot be manufactured inside the country.

The import of mining machinery without a history of manufacturing inside the country has been liberated without restrictions, and in this way, a good prospect is expected in the mining industry equipment sector in the future, the official said, adding that in terms of

the other machines that can be manufactured inside the country, import will not be done.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government is pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

But despite these programs, this sector is facing several challenges.

According to a report released in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) by the Research Center of the parliament, the challenges of the mining sector are 44 percent related to laws and the lack of a long and clear mining strategy, 33 percent are related to mismanagement and problems of miners, 13 percent to environmental and natural resources problems, and 10 percent are related to international problems.

Lack of machinery is also a major challenge in the mining sector.

A board member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said: “At present, due to the shortage of these machines, purchase prices have skyrocketed and, in addition, their rents have become very expensive. At these prices, it is not profitable for small and medium-sized mines to rent machinery and become active. Finally, the miner has the mine and the raw material, but it is not economical due to the expensive operation of the machinery”.

ICCIMA's new media center director, deputy head for international affairs appointed

TEHRAN – Gholam-Hossein Shafei, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), appointed Amir Ashtiani Araqi as the new director of Media and Communications Center of the chamber.

Also, Mojtaba Modarres-Zadeh, the ICCIMA Secretary General, appointed Alireza Yavari as the chamber's deputy head for international

affairs.

The ceremony to introduce the new deputy head and the new director was participated by Modarres-Zadeh and also ICCIMA Deputy Head Hossein Selhavarzi.

Addressing the ceremony, Modarres-Zadeh spoke about the position of the chamber as the axis of the country's development and considered

public relations to have the most important role in line with the missions of the ICCIMA.

Ashtiani Araqi, for his turn, expounded upon his plans and objectives for the ICCIMA Media and Communications Center, and expressed hope that through group work and the support of other departments of the chamber, the activities of this center will be developed.

UN, international organizations condemn Israeli raids on Palestinian civil society groups

International organizations have in unanimous voice denounced the Israeli regime's military raids on the offices of Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, Press TV reported on Friday.

It comes after Israeli forces stormed, searched, and sealed the headquarters of seven human rights organizations in Ramallah and the outskirts town of al-Bireh, marking a major escalation against the advocacy groups.

The organizations raided by the occupation forces include Al-Haq, Addameer, the Bisan Center for Research & Development, Defense for Children International Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, the Union of Health Work Committees, and the Union of Palestinian Women.

Shawan Jabarin, director of al-Haq, said he and his staffers were still checking whether any documents were confiscated by the regime forces.

Israeli troops "came, blew up the door, got inside, and messed with the files," he was quoted as saying by AP, adding that they sealed the entrance to the office after that.

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees circulated a video showing troops in full battle gear searching their office and ransacking equipment.

In October last year, the Israeli regime issued a military order declaring the seven Palestinian human rights groups as "terrorist organizations," accusing the groups of links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and funneling donor aid to Palestinian resistance fighters.

The groups have strongly denied the claims.

Last month, nine European Union states rejected the Israeli regime's terrorist designation of the Palestinian civil society groups, citing a lack of evidence, and saying they would continue their cooperation and strong support for the organizations.

The United Nations said Thursday that Israeli raids on the offices of seven Palestinian human rights organizations in the West Bank "cannot be taken lightly," and called for the protection of civil society groups.

Farhan Haq, a deputy spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said the world body was "studying" the Israeli raids and that it had expressed concern last year after Israel's designation of the groups as terror organizations.

"It needs to be underscored, in every country, that the authorities need to take particular care to make sure that human rights groups and civil society organizations can go about their work without hindrance," Haq



noted

The UN spokesperson further said that the international body would look at charges that prompted the Israeli actions against the Palestinian groups.

"Those are actions that cannot be taken lightly, so it would take quite a bit to convince us of what was at issue," Haq said. "It remains to be seen what the details are behind these charges."

"The main thing that needs to be done is to make sure that there's no targeting of groups for their human rights work," he said.

The UN Human Rights Office also said the closures "appear totally arbitrary," and that Israel had provided no evidence to support claims the organizations conducted unlawful activities.

"Human rights defenders must be immediately protected from these unjustified attacks," the office said.

UN agencies, AIDA urge continuation of work by Palestinian rights organizations

In a statement on Thursday, the United Nations agencies and the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) working in the occupied Palestinian territories called on the Israeli regime to allow Palestinian human rights and humanitarian organizations to continue their work.

The UN agencies and AIDA said the attempted closures of these organization offices represent the latest in a series of actions by Israel that limit the ability of human rights, humanitarian, and development work in the occupied territories and affect all institutions working to promote human rights and development.

"We urge..Israel to refrain from any action that would prevent these organizations from continuing their critical human rights, humanitarian and development work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," the statement said.

The UN agencies and AIDA stressed that the Israeli authorities had provided no compelling evidence to justify the "terrorist" designations of the Palestinian organizations.

Amnesty International urges end to silencing Palestinian civil

society organizations

In a press statement cited by Palestine's official Wafa news agency on Thursday, Amnesty International called for an end to the stifling of Palestinian civil society organizations at the hands of Israeli occupation authorities.

"The Israeli occupation authorities must end their campaign of repression against Palestinian civil society and let organizations carry out their work free from harassment," said Amna Guellali, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"These organizations have contributed enormously to human rights in the OPT and across the globe, yet Israeli army boots trample all over their work," Guellali added, urging all governments to condemn the Israeli army's attack on Palestinian civil society.

She said the international community "needs to work together not only to reopen the offices of these seven organizations, but also to honor their calls to support the International Criminal Court's investigation into the Palestine situation and for international condemnation of Israel's apartheid against Palestinians."

Amnesty International also said it had spoken to partners at three of the seven raided organizations, which conveyed their shock at the attacks and closures.

"The occupying army has failed to silence our voice in defense of human rights. The army uses military law against human rights law," Khaled Quzmar, director of DCI-Palestine, was quoted as saying by Amnesty International.

"The raids show that Israel rejects the position of the EU and the international community, and rather invests in continuing the occupation and the human rights violations that it causes."

European diplomats vow support for Palestinian NGOs

European diplomats met with Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations (CSOs), whose offices had been targeted by Israeli forces in Ramallah, and rejected Israeli allegations of misuse of EU funds.

The diplomats said that

"past allegations of misuse of EU funds in relation to certain Palestinian CSOs have not been substantiated" after months of investigations into the Israeli allegations.

"The EU will continue to stand by international law and support CSOs that have a role to play in promoting international law, human rights, and democratic values," they said in a statement.

Palestinian Foreign Ministry slams Israel's unlawful raid

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly censured Israel's unlawful military raid on the offices of Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations in Ramallah and Al Bireh.

The ministry said in a statement that the Israeli occupation forces looted documents, seized equipment, and sealed off offices "in another clear attempt to repress and intimidate those documenting and pursuing accountability for Israeli crimes."

'As Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid regime become further entrenched, Palestinian civil society and human rights defenders will continue to be among the prime targets as they play a key role in monitoring and documenting Israel's crimes and violations against the Palestinian people," it warned.

The ministry further said documentation, advocacy, humanitarian aid and legal work are the "hallmarks of democracy and essential for the protection of human rights worldwide", adding that the work of human rights defenders must be protected.

"Absence of political will to hold Israel accountable for its decades of crimes and violations enables its continued war against the international human rights movement," the statement said.

"Israel's attempts to dominate Palestinian civil society, control their functioning, and by extension disrupt the fabric of the Palestinian, society is a political decision aimed to protect Israel's officials from accountability," it added reiterating "its full support for our civil society and commend their determination to uphold the rule of law undeterred by Israel's lawlessness and

Allen Weisselberg, a top Trump executive, pleads guilty in tax scheme

Allen H. Weisselberg, one of Donald J. Trump's most trusted lieutenants, stood before a judge in a Lower Manhattan courtroom on Thursday and admitted that he had conspired with the former president's company to commit numerous crimes, the New York Times reported.

Weisselberg's guilty plea, which followed more than a year of the Manhattan district attorney's office pressuring him to cooperate in a broader investigation of Trump, painted a damning picture of the beleaguered company, which now faces significant financial penalties if it loses its own trial on similar charges.

But for prosecutors who have long sought to indict Trump, Thursday's hearing was something of a consolation prize. Weisselberg refused to turn on Trump himself, something prosecutors had hoped he would do since they charged him with 15 felonies last July.

Under the plea deal, Weisselberg must pay nearly \$2 million in taxes, penalties and interest after accepting lavish off-the-books perks from Trump and his company, including leased Mercedes-Benzes, an apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side and private school tuition for his grandchildren.

He also must point the finger at his longtime employer, the Trump Organization, at its trial in October. In exchange, Weisselberg, who was facing years in prison, is likely to receive a five-month jail sentence, and with time credited for good behavior, he might serve as little as 100 days.

The deal emerged after weeks of pitched back-and-forth negotiations. They culminated in a crucial meeting on Monday, Weisselberg's 75th birthday, when his lawyers gathered with prosecutors in the judge's chambers, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Weisselberg's lawyers, Nicholas A. Gravante Jr. and Mary E. Mulligan, pressed for leniency, emphasizing their client's age, frail health and past service in the National Guard and arguing that the district attorney's demand for a six-month jail term was excessive.

The judge had previously warned that Weisselberg's only chance for probation was cooperating with the broader investigation into Trump's business practices. With that off the table, he proposed a compromise: Over the objections of the district attorney's office, the judge would agree to the five-month sentence.

An examination of how the deal took shape, based on interviews with a half-dozen people knowledgeable about the plea negotiations, underscores Weisselberg's bottom line: He would not betray Trump. For now at least, that unflinching loyalty to a family he has served for nearly a half-century has helped stymie the larger effort to indict the former president.

The interviews also highlight the intense negotiations between Weisselberg's lawyers and the district attorney's office — and the previously unknown role played by the judge, Juan Merchan, to guide the talks — once it became clear that the Trump Organization would refuse to sign a plea deal of its own. Had the company agreed to plead guilty, the judge had offered to impose an even shorter sentence on Weisselberg, the people said.

In a statement on Thursday, Gravante said, "In one of the most difficult decisions of his life, Weisselberg decided to enter a plea of guilty today to put an end to this case and the yearslong legal and personal nightmares it has caused for him and his family."

He added: "Rather than risk the possibility of 15 years in prison, he has agreed to serve 100 days," and said, "We are glad to have this behind him."

Ms. Mulligan declined to comment.

In a statement, the district attorney, Alvin L. Bragg, emphasized how the plea "directly implicates the Trump Organization in a wide range of criminal activity," adding, "We look forward to proving our case in court against the Trump Organization."

The district attorney's investigation into Trump and his family business began with Bragg's predecessor in 2018 and was stalled while Trump fought a subpoena for his tax returns — a battle that twice reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

But even before the Supreme Court ruled, a new avenue in the investigation opened for prosecutors. Bloomberg News reported that Weisselberg and his family had received luxury perks, leading prosecutors to focus on him in the hopes of pressuring him to cooperate. When he balked, they indicted Weisselberg and the company in the tax scheme, bringing charges in July 2021.

The broader investigation into Trump continued, and in December, the then-district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., directed his prosecutors to begin presenting evidence about Trump to a grand jury.

But Bragg, who was sworn in on Jan. 1, grew concerned about proving that Trump had intended to commit a crime, a necessary element of any case against the former president. That burden would have been particularly difficult to meet without an inside witness like Weisselberg.

For that reason, the grand jury presentation about the former president was halted, leading two senior prosecutors to resign and leaving the future of the inquiry — which Bragg has said continues — uncertain.

Even though he did not secure Weisselberg's cooperation, and Trump appears to be personally unscathed, Bragg can still declare the plea a victory. Prosecutors now can point to Weisselberg's admissions that he conspired with the Trump Organization — weighty evidence against the company — when they face off at trial. And Weisselberg, an accountant who served a vital role as the company's financial gatekeeper, will be branded as a felon.

In a statement, the Trump Organization said its two corporate entities under indictment, the Trump Corporation and Trump Payroll Corp., would not plead guilty for "the simple reason that they have done nothing wrong."

The company also called Weisselberg "a fine and honorable man who, for the past four years, has been harassed, persecuted and threatened by law enforcement, particularly the Manhattan district attorney, in their never-ending, politically motivated quest to get President Trump."

Trump is also the subject of a civil investigation being conducted by the New York State attorney general, Letitia James. That inquiry is focused on whether Trump fraudulently inflated the value of his hotels, golf clubs and other assets to obtain loans.

In a statement about Weisselberg's plea on Thursday, Ms. James, whose office is also participating in the criminal investigation, said, "Let this guilty plea send a loud and clear message: We will crack down on anyone who steals from the public for personal gain because no one is above the law."

Last week, Ms. James's office interviewed Trump under oath, and the former president invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination more than 440 times, which a jury could hold against him if Ms. James decides to file a lawsuit against the former president.

Trump faces a number of other investigations related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his handling of sensitive documents after he left the White House. Last week, FBI agents searched his Florida home, a stunning move that underscores the

Israel soldiers will not be allowed to fly over Saudi Arabia, Oman

Israeli soldiers will not be allowed to travel over Saudi Arabia and Oman on route to destinations in the Far East according to a report by the Hebrew language website of Israel Hayoum on Monday.

The report explained that the decision means Israeli soldiers and permanent personnel of the military "will now have great difficulty reaching destinations in the East, including Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, India, parts of China, Seychelles and other destinations in the Far East."

Last week Israel's national carrier El Al said it expected approval for its flights to use Omani airspace in "a matter of days", in a move that was considered to be a big boost for the flag carrier's Asian routes.

Speaking to reporters after El Al issued second-quarter results, Chief Executive Dina Ben-Tal said the airline had already received approval to fly over Saudi Arabia but also needed to fly over Oman to bypass Iran and save time for journeys to Asia.

Last month, the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said in a statement that the kingdom's airspace was now open to all carriers, including those of Israel, following a trip by U.S. President Joe Biden as part of his West Asia tour which included Israel. Israel's El Al and smaller Israeli rival Arkia later said they had applied for permission to fly over both Saudi Arabia and Oman.

(Source: Middle East Monitor)

Kim Jong-un's sister: North Korea to rebuff Seoul's 'bold plan' for denuclearization

Kim Yo-jong says the South Korean president's initiative is "the pinnacle of stupidity" and is just a copy of another proposal by Lee Myung-bak

The North Korean authorities will never accept South Korea's offer of denuclearization in exchange for economic aid, Kim Yo-jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said, according to the Yonhap news agency.

"I don't know what other brazen ideas they will come to us with next time, but let me make it clear that we will never deal with it," Kim Yo-jong, Deputy Department Director of the Publicity and Information Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, or WPK, said. She pointed out that South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's initiative is "the pinnacle of stupidity" and is just a copy of another proposal by former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

"The idea that Yoon Suk-yeol is considering exchanging our assets - nuclear missiles - for 'economic cooperation' - and this is his plan



- makes you think that he is really naive and still immature. No one trades fate for corn pudding," the Korean Central News Agency quoted Kim Yo-jong as saying. In her opinion, the assumption that North Korea will agree to take steps toward denuclearization is an inherently erroneous assumption.

Kim Yo-jong also said that individual South

Korean representatives were undermining the epidemic situation in North Korea. Previously, South Korean activists sent anti-state leaflets and medicine in balloons to the People's Republic. "These villains are encroaching on our security by continuing to send dirty garbage into our territory and talking about food supplies and medical aid to the people of the North. Such actions will only incur the wrath of our people," Kim Yo-jong said.

The North Korean authorities had previously said the COVID-19 outbreak in the country was due to such 'foreign objects' found in the border area.

On August 15, on the anniversary of the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from Japanese rule, South Korean leader Yoon Suk-yeol laid out details of his "bold plan" in which Seoul offers Pyongyang economic aid in exchange for denuclearization.

(Source: TASS)

Iraqi travelers pay lower medical costs in Kermanshah



TEHRAN —Iraqi travelers can find lower-priced medical services in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, the head of the Kermanshah Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture has said.

Medical tourists from Iraq can access high-quality medical services in Kermanshah at a much lower price than in the neighboring countries such as UAE and Turkey, Keyvan Kashefi said on Wednesday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation of health tourism activists of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in Kermanshah.

Iraqi nationals have visited Kermanshah for years to receive medical care, but their visits have mostly been unorganized and individual, the official added.

For the past two or three years, Kermanshah officials have been organizing health tourism and encouraging hospitals in the province to provide special areas for Iraqi tourists, he explained.

Kermanshah is currently equipped to accept health tourists and provide them with services in all different fields of medicine and treatment centers, he noted.

It is possible to arrange for Iraqi health tourists to enter Kermanshah through VIP routes on the ground without the least delay, he mentioned.

It is also planned to establish flights from Kermanshah to Sulaymaniyah in the long run, which would facilitate the arrival of medical tourists as well, he added.

Kordestan arranged to highlight tourist attractions

TEHRAN –Introducing and promoting Kordestan's tourist attractions could strengthen the tourism industry and attract foreign travelers to the region, a local tourism official has said.

To attract domestic and foreign tourists, the tourism officials of the province should emphasize Kordestan's historical, tourism, cultural and natural potential, CHTN quoted Jamshid Jafarpur as saying on Thursday.

It is also on the tourism ministry's agenda to strengthen and provide tourism infrastructure for Kordestan's comprehensive development, the official added.

The private and public sectors need to cooperate and interact in order to develop the tourism industry in the province, he explained.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th-century CE (Seljuk period), the name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that

Kermanshah has many impressive historical sites, such as Taq-e Bostan and Bisotun, to name a few.

Kermanshah was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sassanid dynasty. After the Arab conquest in 640, the city was named Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the most important city in Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501-1736) fortified the city, and the Qajars repelled an attack by the Turks during the reign of Fath Ali Shah (1797-1834). During World War I, the city was occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 and evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s, crossing the old Khorasan route, contributed significantly to the importance of the city.

Iran is known in the world as an affordable destination for health tourism, and the government is making a great effort to attract more medical tourists in the years to come.

Credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine, diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally hospitable people constitute Iran's trump cards to be a major hub for medical tourism.

Experts believe that medical tourism in the Islamic Republic is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iranian hospitals offer a wide variety of medical services such as eye surgeries and services, cardiovascular surgeries especially pediatric heart surgery, bone marrow transplantation, gynecologic and obstetric surgery, oncologic services, cerebrospinal surgery, orthopedic surgery (total knee & total hip replacement, etc.), and urologic surgery, and so many other services.

The Islamic Republic has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).



the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Before the COVID pandemic, Iran tourism had constantly been growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019).

Mass COVID-19 vaccinations, consecutive fam tours for foreign tour operators, easing travel procedures, and fresh strategies, altogether, suggest Iran is determined to experience a tourism rebound with a greater reliance on its numerous tourist spots of which 26 are UNESCO World Heritage, and above all, its welcoming people.

Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Muharram rituals in Kashan attended by 130 foreign travelers

From page 1 ▶ They say the commemoration of Ashura is a tribute to truth and justice and condemnation of tyranny anytime and anywhere. This is perhaps one of the many reasons why a day like Ashura can never be overlooked, as these rituals encompass universal values that will never wear out.

Travelers are welcomed in all places where Muharram rituals are held. Holidaymakers can witness various ceremonies, such as Tazieh, a passionate play inspired by historical and religious narrations, and Sineh-Zani [beating the chest]. They also converse with locals and religious figures while taking shots of mourners to document the events.

Religious ceremonies in Iran more than often include food offerings, whether they are held at public venues like mosques or private residences. These communal gatherings are also a kind of forum where friends, acquaintances, and neighbors meet over food that is served after the ceremonies. During Muharram, every village, township, city, or metropolis is abuzz with preparation for food offerings known as Nazri, the processions



of which are usually sponsored by wealthy benefactors.

On Tasu'a and Ashura, each neighborhood sets stands to offer food to the mourners and the passersby. Also, households provide dishes to their neighbors by distributing parcels to houses or hosting mourning ceremonies inside their homes and asking people to join by invitation.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd. Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights, stories,

and surrounding attractive villages to discover. Amongst the highlights are the lavishly decorated houses of Brujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi.

Apart from cultural sites such as a domed bazaar, where travelers can find loads of Kashani traditions and souvenirs, they may escape the city for the UNESCO-registered Fin Garden, which is believed to be the epitome of Eden.

Kashan is highly famed for rosewater distillation ceremonies, which draw visitors from all over the country. Many believe

traditionally distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories, probably due to shorter time intervals between the harvest and distillation practices. Golab or rosewater is a fragrant distillate of Mohammadi roses, which is used in dishes to flavor them or being consumed as a religious perfume as well.

In addition, Kashan embraces some archaeological gems. Most importantly, the Tepe Sialk has yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

The name Kashan is tightly bound to the UNESCO-designated Abyane, which is situated around 90 km in a southward direction. The ancient village is known for its gorgeous architecture, traditional clothing specifically from the inhabitants, and its old dialect of Persian that dates from the Sassanid era. Abyaneh is truly a living piece of history. Its people's ways of life and traditions have survived almost unchanged for hundreds of years.

Agritourism: Gilan bids to bring more visitors

TEHRAN– Gilan province's tourism directorate seeks to promote agritourism in its Sowme'eh Sara county, which is home to countless farms, paddy fields, pastures, and gardens.

"Considering its significant capacities, we seek to strengthen looked-for infrastructure to develop agritourism in Sowme'eh Sara," CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Wednesday.

"The agricultural capacity of Sowme'eh Sara, specifically in the cultivation of rice, tea, sugarcane, tobacco, mulberry, and saffron, as well as chicken breeding and wood cultivation, has made this area an important destination for domestic and foreign travelers," Vali Jahani explained.

"In this regard, investment facilities and incentives, such as low-interest loans and tax exemptions, are provided to investors applying for investment in the field of agricultural tourism in Sowme'eh Sara," the official explained.

Jahani said the short distance between

Sowme'eh Sara and Rasht is an advantage to investing in agriculture to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc. Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

Sophisticated Rasht, the 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.

In addition, 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.

Intl. course to empower female crafters

TEHRAN–An international training course on needlework is being held in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan with the aim of empowering female crafters.

The project, which is underway in four cities of the province, has been organized by the Tehran University of Art in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and with the support of Japan's Government, CHTN reported on Friday.

Workshops are offered in color science, packaging, digital

marketing, visual identity, sewing, and clothing design as part of this educational course, the report added.

Some 60 local crafters have attended the course, which will come to an end on September 22.

Needlework (Souzan-douzi in Persian) is a very common occupation among females in southern regions of the country.

It is the art of drawing images on plain fabrics by sewing delicate stitches using needle and colorful yarns. They are mainly used to embellish women's clothes; however, such works are applied to decorate



bracelets, necklaces, bags, and scarves.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west and an obvious rise in

Dalaki caravanserai undergoes restoration for tourism

TEHRAN– A team of restorers and cultural heritage experts has commenced work to amend Dalaki caravanserai in a bid to make it a thriving tourist destination.

"Dalaki caravanserai, which dates from the Qajar era, has undergone restoration. The monument is located in Dashtestan county," Bushehr province's deputy tourism chief said on Thursday.

The project involves repairing arched ceilings and strengthening the walls, flooring, and foundation, the official said.

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

Caravanserai or caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and



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

A couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to private investors for better maintenance. Now,

some are exclusively renovated and repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 - 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588– to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country. Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

The Islamic Republic has submitted an inclusive dossier on its caravanserais to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The dossier comprises the obligatory data about a selection of 56 caravanserais, which are scattered across the ancient land. And the shortlist includes qualified caravanserais located in at least 24 provinces.

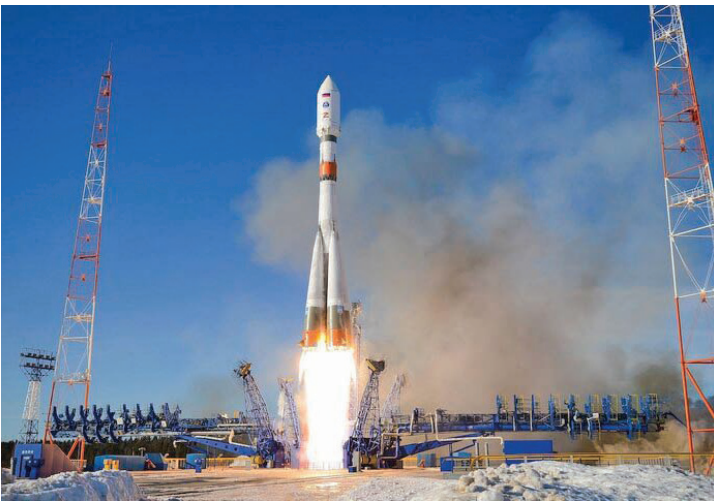
Iran on path of development to enter space age: U.S. academic

TEHRAN – Iran has followed the path of development to enter the space age by placing the Khayyam satellite into orbit, U.S. academic and author Marsha Freeman has said.

The satellite will make huge contributions to the country's science and technology fields as it can enhance digital communications, she stressed.

Iran's Space Organization launched the Khayyam satellite with a wide range of environmental functions on August 9. Named after Persian polymath Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131), the satellite was put into orbit by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur space station in Kazakhstan.

"Omar Khayyam (1048-1131) was a Persian polymath, that is, a person who has a broad knowledge or learning, and was known globally for his contributions to mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, and poetry. Similarly, the satellite which bears his name will make contributions to many fields



of science and technology," Freeman, who has authored hundreds of articles on space programs, told Press TV.

She noted that the topographic maps provided by the satellite can "facilitate the planned extension of Iran's railway network and will also provide the basis for improved digital communications in the country."

With remote-sensing applications, the satellite will send high-quality pictures four times a day for use in environmental and agricultural research and monitoring of water resources, according to Iran's Space Organization.

The maps and data will be used for improving agricultural productivity, enhanced monitoring of Iran's water resources, managing natural disasters, supervising

development projects under construction, observing environmental hazards, monitoring mines and relevant excavations, and keeping a close watch on the country's borders.

Iran's Space Organization received the first telemetry data sent from the "Khayyam" satellite hours after the launch.

The satellite was launched at the velocity of 7.6 kilometers per second and was placed into an LEO orbit 500 kilometers above the earth's surface some 480 seconds after the blast-off.

The topographic maps provided by the satellite can provide the basis for improved digital communications in the country.

Tehran to host intl. congress on Health in Arbæen



TEHRAN – The first international congress on "Health in Arbæen" will be held in Tehran on August 27.

The International Health Congress in Arbæen will be held with the aim of reviewing the weaknesses and shortcomings of the health sector in the great Arbæen march in previous years and providing the

necessary solutions.

The congress also aims to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and synergy of service providers in the Arbæen trek to reduce the obstacles in providing health services to the pilgrims.

The event will be held by the Iranian Red Crescent Society and in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Emergency Organization, IRIB reported on Thursday.

The Arbæen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The event aims to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and synergy of service providers in the Arbæen trek.

Each year, a huge crowd of people flocks to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

This year Arbæen falls on September 17.

Before the outbreak of coronavirus, some 2 to 3 million Iranians attended annually in the Arbæen march. However, last year, the rituals were

held virtually to avoid the transmission of the disease.

291 monkeypox tests conducted nationwide

TEHRAN – Following the identification of the first case of monkeypox, 291 tests have so far been carried out in the country, Shahnam Arshi, Head of the Infectious Diseases Management Center of the Ministry of Health has said.

On Wednesday, a 34-year-old woman who is living in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, was diagnosed with monkeypox, IRNA reported.

"Monkeypox test has different methods, one of which is virus PCR test. Of course, finally, in order to be confirmed, genetic sequencing is also done so that the result is definitive.

Primary monkeypox testing is done at all centers, but sequencing is done only by the Pasteur Institute of Iran," he explained.

Neither the epidemic nor the

number of infections is that high to provide the vaccine, and even in the countries where the prevalence is high, there is no talk of routine vaccination, Arshi stated.

Those who have injected the smallpox vaccine will be immune against monkeypox to a great extent.

Since May 13, cases of monkeypox have been reported to the World Health Organization from 12 Member States that are not endemic to the monkeypox virus.

In May, the Ministry of Health was examining suspects to identify possible monkeypox infection. Also, a guideline has been prepared for the prevention and treatment of this disease, which will be provided to universities.

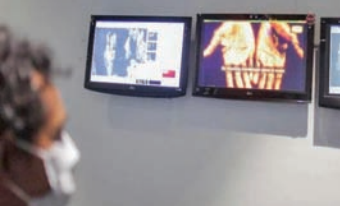
Due to its low transmission pace, it is less likely to cause an epidemic and is not worrisome, he stated.

In the current epidemic of monkeypox disease, more than 30,000 cases have been reported in the world, of which about 15,000 cases have been reported in the Americas and about 15,000 to 16,000 confirmed cases have also been reported in various European countries.

More than 80 countries have reported infection. So far, 35 cases have been reported in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms very similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. It is caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family.

The virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact



with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets, and contaminated materials such as bedding. The incubation period of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days.

Monkeypox is usually self-limiting but may be severe in some individuals, such as children, pregnant women, or persons with immune suppression due to other health conditions. Human infections in the West African clade appear to cause less severe disease compared to the Congo Basin clade, with a case fatality rate of 3.6% compared to 10.6% for the Congo Basin clade.

SOCIETY

AUGUST 20, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Improvement of environmental indicators; dream or reality?

From page 1 ► Based on this index, countries are ranked in 11 issues of air quality, water resources management, water and wastewater, heavy metals, climate change management, habitats and biodiversity, ecosystem services, fishing, agriculture, acid rain, and waste management.

Yale University has announced that it has obtained the required information from scientific centers, governments, and third-party institutions, and it is not limited to government information.

Stating that Iran has been ranked 133 based on the EPI index in 2022, he noted that to upgrade at least five steps from the annual ranking based on the latest ranking of 2022 means to climb five places annually from the 133rd rank in 2022, which is not scientifically meaningful.

But if even half of it is realized and not fail, it is commendable and promising, he highlighted.

Important issues such as waste recycling, protection of biological centers and genetic reserves and sensitive ecosystems and green technologies, sustainable production, and consumption patterns are not foreseen in this resolution, so it needs to be revised, he stated.

Among these components, the situation of available water resources is worrisome, its reduction has affected the intensification of land subsidence and soil erosion, so water resources management should be given top priority. We need to define an economy that is not water-based, and we must reduce the livelihood dependence on water and soil resources to generate income, he suggested.

Referring to air pollution as another environmental crisis in the country, he stated that to solve the air pollution crisis, urban infrastructure should be changed from car-oriented to eco-oriented, and municipalities should add 10 percent annually to safe cycling routes and sidewalks so that people no longer use private cars.

In order to solve the biodiversity crisis and protect the natural habitats, educational content and films

and series should be made to increase public awareness, he concluded.

Regional diplomacy for a better environment

President Ebrahim Raisi has emphasized that the preservation of the environment is essential and an inevitable priority.

"Conservation of the ecosystem and environment, which is a global concern, especially for countries of the region, is an inevitable priority today. If the environment is not safe and peaceful for people, the development will not be in its proper place and it will even become a threat to human health," Raisi said at the conference of environment ministers and officials on July 12.

"Iran is one of the leading countries taking steps toward environmental restoration as a requirement for social development, and environmental destruction, which is a result of social and political inequalities and improper use of nature and is an important factor in the violation of human rights.

The current world is facing many environmental problems beyond geographical and political borders, and the West Asian region is facing severe sand and dust storms.

Undoubtedly, the reduction of food and biological security, pollution, and excessive extraction of resources has led to the reduction of public health, and a negative impact on health and the economy," he lamented.

Plans should be developed for the management and exploitation of water, air, soil, and waste management, he suggested, announcing readiness to share experiences and knowledge with neighboring countries to reduce pollution.

A union or an organization for environmental cooperation of West Asian countries should be formed to organize the required measures. Also, the establishment of a regional fund for financial support is necessary to achieve the goals of the UN resolutions, he highlighted.

BIRDS IN IRAN

Part 3

The drier and more open oak woodlands of the western Zagros lack some of the true forest species and have a Mediterranean element which includes species such as Syrian woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*, masked shrike *Lanius nubicus*, black-eared wheatear, somber tit *Parus lugubris*, and cinereous bunting *Emberiza cineracea*.

In the even drier mixed pistachio, sycamore, and almond woodlands of the eastern Zagros, the Kerman highlands, and isolated mountains in northern Baluchestan, only a handful of Western Palearctic species occur.

Characteristic birds here include a mixture of Middle Eastern specialties e.g., white-throated robin *Irania gutturalis* and plain leaf warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Eastern Palearctic species, e.g., isabelline shrike *Lanius isabellinus* and Hume's lesser whitethroat *Sylvia (curruca) althaea*, Oriental species, e.g., bay-backed shrike *Lanius vitta-tus*, and Western Palearctic species at the extreme edge of their ranges, e.g., wood pigeon,

nightingale, and blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Finally, throughout the remoter mountain ranges of Iran there still exist good stands of juniper forest with specialties such as gold-fronted serin *Serinus pusillus* and, in the northeast, white-winged grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*.

The hot southern lowlands

The arid tropical climate of the southern coastal lowlands supports a flora and fauna quite unlike that of the rest of Iran. From northwestern Khuzestan to eastern Persian Baluchestan, open park-like stands of *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, and *Tamarix* and extensive date-palm groves provide suitable habitat for a variety of Oriental/Afrotropical species, such as palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*, Indian roller *Coracias benghalensis*, little green bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, white-eared bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, graceful prinia *Prinia gracilis*, common babbler *Turdoides caudatus*, purple sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* and yellow-throated sparrow *Petronia xanthocolis*.

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake's level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake's water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

Although the ecological level of the lake is defined as 1,274 meters, the lake will also have favorable conditions at 1,272 meters and more than 95 percent of sand and dust storm hotspots will be eliminated.

افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رئیس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

هرچند تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر به عنوان ارتفاع اکولوژیک دریاچه ارومیه اعلام شده ولی این دریاچه در تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۲ متر هم شرایط مطلوب خواهد داشت و بیش از ۹۵ درصد کانون های ریزگرد آن رفع خواهد شد.

