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Iran can be China's best partner in region: ambassador

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzadeh has referred to the expansion of the capacities and fields of cooperation between Iran and China, saying that Iran, as the safest country in the region, can be the best partner for China.

Keshavarzadeh made the remarks at the 13th annual joint meeting of the Iran-China Friendship Association held in Tehran on Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting, the ambassador said, "The history of relations between the two countries as two ancient historical civilizations goes back to more than two thousand years ago. At that time, the Silk Road was a bridge of friendly communication between the two countries, and the people of the two countries also received mutual influence from each other as a result of these historical relations, influences that perhaps even today we do not remember their ancient roots correctly."

He added, "Today, the historical silk road has been revived; but the relationship between the people of the two countries is not limited to trade. Today, the cooperation between the two friendly countries, Iran and China, is expanding in all fields. Today, thanks to the advancement of technology and the development of communication, the platform and tools for the expansion of relations between the two nations are more ready than ever."

Referring to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two countries and the plans for this event, Keshavarzadeh said, "The relations between the two countries have now been upgraded to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership with the strong determination of the senior leaders of Iran and China." ▶ Page 3

Canada, Japan and Europe import Iranian pharmaceuticals

TEHRAN – Iranian-made pharmaceuticals are currently exported to Canada, Japan, and Europe, Faramarz Ekhteraei, chairman of the Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate, has said.

Emphasizing that 72 percent of the country's pharmaceutical raw materials are domestically produced, he added that Iran has many capabilities in the pharmaceutical industry and investors should pay attention to it.

Pharmaceuticals should be taken into consideration due to their strategic importance in the treatment and health sector because there are capacities in the world for the production of effective medicinal substances that we can produce with the help of knowledge-based companies and pharmaceutical manufacturers with quality and low prices, he highlighted.

According to him, the technical speed of the pharmaceutical industry is high and it should be considered for investment. We have achieved acceptable growth in the fields of packaging, active ingredients, and the pharmaceutical chain, and the government should also provide more support in this field.

Iran's API and Pharmaceutical Packaging Syndicate and Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) will organize the 4th Pharmex International Exhibition (Middle East) from August 23 to 26, at Iran Mall International Expo Center.

On the sidelines of the event, a "special meeting for the development of commercial cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry" will also be held for the first time in the country.

Rise in pharmaceuticals, medical production

The import of pharmaceuticals has declined in Iran by 91 percent, which shows the capability of the country's pharmaceutical industry, Mohammad Reza Shanhesaz, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said last October. ▶ Page 7

Europe's Hellish Winter Is Loading



TEHRAN — While Europe strives to prepare for the next freezing winter, the U.S. has effectively taken the solution to this impending crisis hostage.

Europe began to consider alternatives to Russian gas as early as May of this year, when they invited Qatar's Emir to a regional tour. In February,

the White House was ahead of them, referring to Qatar as a "major ally" outside NATO. The tour, however, was not totally successful because it was primarily concerned with political disputes rather than selling gas to Europe.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani visited Slovenia, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom,

France, and Switzerland.

However, as previously said, efforts to establish a common ground between Iran and the U.S. in order to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) took center stage during the May tour, and Qatar was unable to create a firm cooperation framework to sell gas to Europe. ▶ Page 2

Iran's export to China rises 23% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN— According to the data released by China's customs administration, the value of Iran's non-oil exports to China reached \$4.47 billion in the first seven months of 2022, registering a 23-percent rise year on year.

The Islamic Republic exported \$3.63 billion

worth of goods to China in January-July 2021.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran and China traded \$9.67 billion worth of commodities in the mentioned six months to register a 22-percent increase compared to the same period in 2021.

China's exports to Iran in the first seven months of 2022 also grew by 22 percent compared to the previous year to reach \$5.2 billion. The Asian country had exported \$4.26 billion worth of goods to Iran in the same period of the previous year. ▶ Page 4

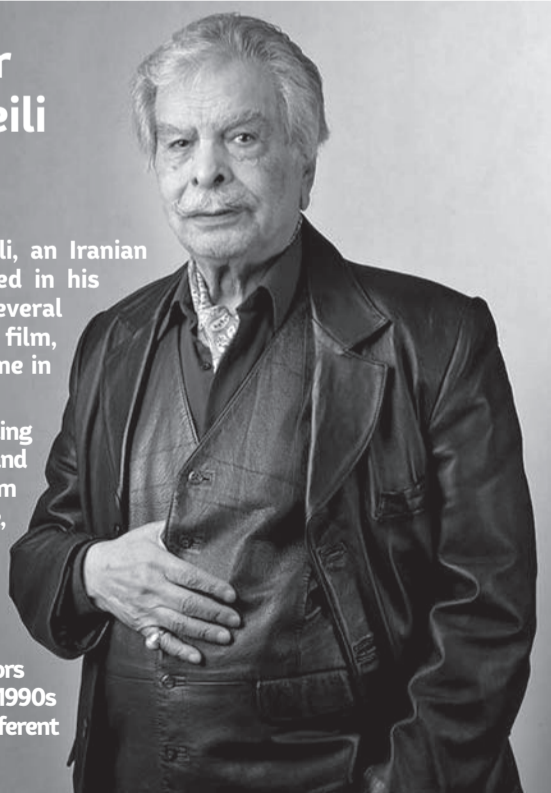
Iranian voice actor Manuchehr Esmaeili dies at 83

By Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN – Manuchehr Esmaeili, an Iranian artist who was so highly skilled in his art that he was able to voice several different characters in the same film, died from heart failure in his home in Tehran on Monday. He was 83.

"He was at home after spending several days at the hospital and unfortunately he passed away from heart failure last night," his colleague, Mojtaba Naqiei, told the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday.

He was best known for his ability to produce multiple voices. Due to this unique talent, many Iranian film directors in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s employed him to voice several different characters in the same film. ▶ Page 8



Iran's tourism revenues were \$2.5 billion in year

TEHRAN—Iran generated \$2.5 billion in international tourism revenue over the past 12 months, mainly driven by holidaymakers from the neighboring states.

"Iran's international tourism revenues were between \$2.5 billion during the past 12 months since President Ebrahim Raisi took office," IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Iran's economy expanded at the fastest pace over the mentioned period year as eased COVID-19 restrictions boosted activity and

tourism.

In addition, traveling and tourism accounted for 3.1 percent of GDP in 2020 while the number hit 4.1 percent in 2021, the report said.

The Islamic republic recorded about three million foreign tourist arrivals during the period. Last September, the country initiated preliminary steps for a bounce-back, restarting the issuance of tourist visas following a 20-month hiatus, and easing COVID-19 pro-

ocols for fully vaccinated passengers.

Regarding domestic travels, according to the tourism minister, Ezzatollah Zarghami, the country has regained its pre-coronavirus status. "According to the forecasts of the World Tourism Organization, global tourism will return to the normal state (before the coronavirus pandemic) by the end of 2024. However, we returned to normal earlier than the forecasts of international organizations," the minister said. ▶ Page 6

Iranian para shooters claim two golds at Changwon 2022 World Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian para shooters Nasrin Shahi and Mohammadreza Mirshafiei claimed two gold medals at the Changwon 2022 World Cup on Tuesday.

In P2 – Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1, Shahi won the gold with 238.4 points.

The silver medal went to her compatriot Sareh Javanmardi who scored 234.3 points.

The bronze medal was won by Indian shooter Rubina Francis with 213.2 points.

In P1 – Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1, Mirshafiei snatched the gold with 236.0 points.

Korean shooter Jeongdu Jo seized the silver with 232.2 points and Mongolia's Ganzorig Ganjargal claimed the bronze with 208.6 points.

The competition has brought 146 shooters from 18 in the World Cup and will run until Aug. 24.

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

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Defense minister: Enemy disappointed with Iran's defensive capabilities

TEHRAN — Speaking in a live TV show late on Monday, Iran's defense minister spoke of how the defense industry has progressed and shifted to working with knowledge-based companies.

Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said, "The enemy's attention is focused on this area and Micro Air Vehicles (MAVs), as we have organized air defense missiles in order to respond to the enemy threats. Regarding long range ballistic missiles, command and control, great works have been done, which can be implemented by combining all these works together."

These weapons will be tested in exercises and will eventually be used, Brigadier General Ashtiani noted.

He then said the enemy is disappointed as it is aware of the scientific, equipment and technical capabilities of the Defense Ministry.

Therefore, he said, the ministry is moving in the direction of progress. "We give complete assurance to the people and we are sure that in the coming years, we can make equipment and weapons by which no one can threaten Iran."

The brigadier general considered the most important components in the framework of the defense industry in the last year (August 2021-August 2022) was to attend to the structures, adding, "The human resources department is very important. The ministry works with elites and scientists in various levels. These experts must master the field of research and break the boundaries and remove all the dead ends and bring the production to a level where the needs are met and the distance between the idea and the product is reduced." ▶ Page 2

Kosovo Ferfilm festival to screen films from Iran

TEHRAN – Nine Iranian films will be screened at the International Film Festival – Ferfilm in Kosovo.

Among the films are "The Fabric" by Iman Behruzi, "Quarantine" by Majid Mirhashemi, "Philadelphia Iran Afghanistan" by Zardosht Ashari, "The Zoo" by Nafiseh Zare' and "Katvoman" by Hadi Sheibani.

In "The Fabric", a co-production between Iran and Germany, an Iranian student shows that the renovations of his university dorm were left unfinished because of the lockdown in Germany. They had put up a thick fabric around the building to contain the debris that remained in place. During the lockdown, 367 students living in the 25-story building could barely see the world outside through the tiny holes of this thick fabric.

"Quarantine" is about a woman who has a fanatical husband, but she tries not to make her daughter's future look like her own. ▶ Page 8

Europe's hellish winter is loading

From page 1 ► Prices began to increase in June, as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalated. As a result, the Europeans began to believe that their inaction to revive the JCPOA was not in their best interests, and they began to believe that they needed to play a larger role than a mailman delivering envelopes from the Iranian delegation to the Americans.

Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, decided to take charge of the situation and meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in the hopes of finding a new silver lining for the crisis-stricken continent, which was already suffering from wheat and grain shortages.

One can assume that in the winter a possible increase in energy prices could lead to uprisings across the continent that could be spending a frigid winter without gas.

On June 25, Borrell met with Amir Abdollahian in the hopes of reaching an agreement. The visit concluded with Iranian negotiators agreeing to meet with their American colleagues in Doha, Qatar, to work out some outstanding issues. Despite having low hopes and being skeptical about the outcome, Iran took the grueling rounds of talks in Qatar on June 28-29 extremely seriously. The American side, on the other hand, arrived in Doha with exceptionally maximalist demands.

Borrell came up with another plan after being dissatisfied with the procedure in Doha. On August 8, he put a 35-page proposal on the table to resolve the issue as soon as possible, and he offered Iran a week to evaluate it. On August 14, Iran issued a package proposal that contained its first reaction, reservations, and attempts to overcome those objections.

The response was provided to the EU, and the EU promptly submitted it to the Americans. However, the U.S. began to procrastinate and, as of this writing, has not responded to Iran's proposal, which Borrell described as "reasonable" on Monday.

Separately on Sunday, the E3 leaders called U.S. President Joe Biden and urged him to accept the proposal on the table. However, feeling threatened by the prospect of a JCPOA revival, the Israeli regime dispatched its National Security Advisor Eyal Hulata to Washington to negotiate the JCPOA revival.

Prior to Hulata's departure, the regime's Prime Minister, Yair Lapid, demanded that Biden "walk away" from the negotiations since the pact jeopardized Tel Aviv's interests.

Iran FM starts tour of Africa, visits Mali

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian arrived in Mali on the first leg of a trip to Africa which will also include Tanzania.

Amir Abdollahian headed Tuesday to Africa at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation including trade representatives of the private sector for talks with senior officials of Mali and Tanzania.

During this trip, Amir Abdollahian will hold talks with the presidents and other officials of Mali, Tanzania (and Zanzibar), the Foreign Ministry said on Monday afternoon.

Iran and Mali will also hold joint economic commission.

The representatives of the Iranian private sector

On Monday, United States National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said, "We are currently doing our homework and will respond at an appropriate time and after our internal process is complete. No sooner."

She continued, "We are in intensive and constant discussions with Israel. (Israeli) National Security Advisor Dr. Hulata is in Washington this week." However, the part that scared the bejesus out of the E3 is the next statement.

Watson said, "There is no greater supporter of Israel's security than President Biden." The E3 leaders must have realized by now that Biden chooses to sacrifice everyone for the sake of Tel Aviv. This is not surprising, but France, the UK, and Germany put all of their eggs in the JCPOA revival basket, and now, with the United States refusing to respond, they are seeking alternatives.

According to reports, French President Emmanuel Macron is scheduled to visit Algeria on Thursday. France is completely fine with mediating a historical dispute between Algeria, Morocco, and Spain in order to supply his country with gas. As some political observers put it, "utter desperation."

Angry demonstrators gathered outside Hungary's parliament on Friday to protest the relaxation of logging laws in order to fulfill increased demand for firewood as a result of rising gas and electricity prices.

Europe is somehow returning to the Dark Ages, asking its citizens to rely on firewood and coal to heat their houses.

Europe has been attempting to transition from fossil fuels and set a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

This comes as European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans warned that the EU faced "quite serious tension and turmoil" over energy prices this winter.

Protests have erupted in France, Germany, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and Belgium in response to the energy crisis. There is, however, a simple and viable remedy available: Resurrecting the JCPOA. The Biden administration must reconsider its priorities and determine if Tel Aviv or Europe is more valuable. Biden's gamble could cost him an entire continent.

A hellish winter is loading for Europe, and the clock is ticking.

will hold joint economic and trade forums with their peers from Tanzania and Mali, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

It is worth noting that following Iran's agreement to donate one million doses of homegrown Barakat Covid vaccine to Mali, the Malian officials will receive part of the shipment during the Iranian foreign minister's stay in the country.

Amir Abdollahian arrived at the capital Bamako's airport on Monday night, local time.

The Iranian foreign minister, who was scheduled to meet with Mali's officials and hold a joint economic commission, was welcomed by the Republic of Mali's top diplomat Abdoulaye Diop.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Revival of nuclear deal will open door for talks on other issues: report

TEHRAN – In a report published on August 19, Al Monitor said if the 2015 nuclear deal is revived, then Iran, the U.S. and the European Union will sit and talk about other important issues such as delisting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from the Foreign Terrorist Organization and exchanging prisoners.

"According to multiple sources in Tehran, Washington and Brussels, the revival of the nuclear agreement will open the door to negotiations on other outstanding issues besides the IRGC one, such as a potential prisoner swap," Al Monitor said in its report headlined "Iran nuclear deal: The devil remains in the details".

Following is part of the text:

The buzz is that the parties may be close to an agreement to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

So close that Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid sent a message to the White House to walk away from the negotiations and avoid concessions above and beyond the original 2015 agreement.

On Aug. 8, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell clarified that the 25-page draft had been delivered to the capitals involved for their decision on whether to accept it.

Borrell's spokesperson, Peter Stano, made it clear that the text is final and, as he put it, it's "the moment for a decision." Stano added, "We expect all participants to take this decision very quickly ... there is no more space for negotiations."

At midnight Tehran time on Aug. 15, the Iranian government sent the European Union its response to what was described as the final text that was put together by the EU's top negotiator, Enrique Mora, following the five-day round of talks in Vienna earlier this month.

Iran's response to the latest proposal included several remarks that — if added to the EU's document — mean there could well be another version of it, requiring more consultations for the United States and Iran in their capitals and later more deliberations among the parties involved.

Washington is apparently formulating its response to the Iranian remarks cautiously.

To clench a deal, the two sides must reach a balanced nuclear agreement that includes some face saving for everyone on sensitive issues.

This is the major dilemma because the "devil is in the details" and any last-minute changes may complicate the expected agreement and extend negotiations until the outstanding issues are resolved.

According to Iranian sources speaking to Al-Monitor, the



proposed deal would be implemented over a period of 120 days from the moment of agreeing on terms. The Iranian parliament will have to approve the deal within 60 days, then after another 60 days, the deal will be implemented.

Yet the verification process will start at the moment of approval. The United States will have then to revoke the sanctions, including some of the sanctions on the oil sector, on a case-by-case basis, and Iran will then be able to sell its oil and verify it's able to get its money.

During the process, according to sources, U.S. President Joe Biden would cancel three executive orders issued by former President Donald Trump on sanctions against Iran, and seven days before the implementation, both the United States and Iran will have to send an official letter to the European coordinator confirming their return to the agreement.

"The idea of keeping the advanced centrifuges in a warehouse, thereby giving Iran an ability to ramp up quickly if the U.S. were to pull out again is what's known as an 'inherent guarantee,'" says Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

But what about the disputed issues?

The issue of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and its removal from the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) list has been moved beyond the agreement, and the process of lifting sanctions on Iranian companies would take place on a case-by-case basis, according to the Iranian source.

An Iranian source close to the Supreme National Security Council revealed to Al-Monitor that an understanding has been reached to discuss the IRGC issue after a deal is reached.

He added, "The IRGC [designation] will not be lifted. The Americans were ready to cancel these sanctions (and thus remove the IRGC from the FTO list) in return for steps from Iran, such as giving guarantees that Iran will not take action against people whom Iran accuses of being involved in the killing of [former IRGC commander] Qassem Soleimani." However, the source noted, this would have contradicted Tehran's "vow to avenge the blood" of Soleimani, and thus was opposed by the Iranian side.

A source spoke to Al-Monitor about the initiative taken by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in March to help mediate between Iran and the United States on the IRGC issue. The source said that "at that particular stage, the United States was seeking to link the issue of removing the IRGC from the list of terrorist organizations" to a broader agreement for Iran to limit regional activity.

For Tehran, the give was not worth the take. And for Washington, even the thought of removing the IRGC from the FTO list would have required a great price in return. Thus it was a deal whose losses were much greater than its profits for both parties, so it was agreed to remove it from discussions, though it remained on the table.

For those who have closely followed the negotiations over the past several years and been in direct contact with the actors involved in them, it's apparent the nuclear agreement is not a singular agreement but rather a set of deals under the umbrella of one deal. Each item is negotiated as if it were the only item, then multiple items are grouped together and coordinated with each other as if part of a multicolored rosary. Some beads do not match with each other. The negotiators then exert additional effort on the complete text to try to harmonize it, hoping that what has been accomplished won't be for naught.

Among what was accomplished was a settlement covering the guarantees gap that remained without a solution.

To work around Iran's concerns about the absence of a U.S. "guarantee" to stay in the Iran deal beyond the Biden administration, Iran's Supreme National Security Council secretary, Ali Shamkhani, tweeted that the provision in the 2015 agreement that allows the housing of disabled centrifuges in an IAEA-supervised warehouse was an "inherent guarantee," adding that it's "more effective" than any political assurances.

"The nuclear agreement is not a singular agreement but rather a set of deals under the umbrella of one deal."

"The idea of keeping the advanced centrifuges in a warehouse, thereby giving Iran an ability to ramp up quickly if the U.S. were to pull out again is what's known as an 'inherent guarantee,'" said Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "It's one reason that the break-out time cannot be brought back to the JCPOA standard of 12 months. Another factor making a 12-month break-out period impossible is the knowledge Iran has gained over the past three years."

Among the serious proposals currently circulating is the idea of giving a grace period for sanctions violations of between two and a half and three years for companies doing business with Iran in the event that the United States leaves the agreement in the future. The item is present in one of the papers circulating among the negotiators, but it is not yet certain whether Washington will accept it.

There is also the matter of the IAEA investigation into past nuclear research, one of the stickiest points in the negotiations.

"My understanding is that if Iran gives credible answers concerning the whereabouts and disposition of the previously unreported uranium and associate equipment, then this would be sufficient for the IAEA to close the safeguards file, even if all questions about the past development work are not fully put to rest," Fitzpatrick told Al-Monitor.

According to multiple sources in Tehran, Washington and Brussels, the revival of the nuclear agreement will open the door to negotiations on other outstanding issues besides the IRGC one, such as a potential prisoner swap.

Defense minister: Enemy disappointed with Iran's defensive capabilities

From page 1 ► The top defense official said causing a "strategic surprise" for the enemy is a vital issue in the incumbent administration, saying that surprising the enemy in battles and effectiveness and decisiveness of Iran in battles is a priority of the Defense Ministry.

Defense diplomacy is one of the main tasks

According to Ashtiani, one of the important tasks in the ministry is defense diplomacy, which is the foundational strategy for many fields.

"The ministry's communication with other countries can play an effective role in the rest of the ministry's missions. Other countries' officials, including their presidents and various ministers, and various teams and delegations that travel to Iran request holding defense negotiations," the defense chief said.

Referring to the meetings and consultations with the defense officials of various countries, he said in these talks the

sensitive international conditions and Iran's important role in the region and the world, as well as the position of Iran are authoritatively explained.

"In formulating the objectives of defense diplomacy, removing a series of bottlenecks and meeting the needs of some countries is considered," the top defense official pointed out.

Iran is moving in the direction of peace and stability in the region, he continued, noting that the enemy is aware of all the developments and capabilities of Iran.

"We believe in strengthening the resistance front against the global arrogance and helping countries that are moving in this direction," Ashtiani stated.

Regarding the works done to strengthen defense relations with the neighbors in the one-year anniversary of the Raisi administration, the brigadier general said his ministry has held exercises with the participation of neighbors.

"Also, we are in contact with almost all neighbors," he added.

Referring to the difference in the approach of interacting with the neighbors, Ashtiani pointed out that some neighbors should be reassured that Tehran can help them in crises and difficulties. "In relation to some neighbors, we have the role of a guide to take the right positions, and in those places that we can intervene in order to create peace and security in the region, we will enter."

Iran has localized 419 items of defense equipment

Revealing that Iran has localized more than 419 items of equipment, the defense minister pointed out that this localization is a very big task.

"With localization, in addition to creating jobs, the outflow of currency is prevented and the defensive needs of the armed forces are met. The ministry has been able to fulfill its mission in this field, and we definitely have much bigger work ahead of us in these

issues. We have prepared projects and mega-projects in different sectors such as sea, land and air. The issue of equipment is as important as weapons, which can help the armed forces in defense," Ashtiani noted.

He then stated that the ministry will not agree to advance in line with the defined framework, saying that since the objective is greater, progress has to be much faster.

"We do not accept the movement at the level of the (defined and written) program, this movement gives 100% results. Now we have progressed 157% in the field of exports in the last quarter. This increasing progress of the ministry will continue. Our enemies are worried about the achievements of the Defense Ministry. They have totally admitted that the Islamic Republic has made tremendous progress in the field of drones, which confirms the ministry's leap forward," the defense chief underlined.

The brigadier general also discussed the situation of space programs, stating, "The enemy is trying to create extraordinary



and special restrictions in these fields so that access to different parts becomes impossible. Yet, with the help of God and the efforts of Iranian scientists in the space field, very great works in the fields of launchers and stations have been done. We have done space projects and satellites, that is, the electronic industries of the ministry have worked in the field of satellites, and the aerospace organization of the ministry has done great things in the field of launchers for a long time."

Iran calls for dialogue in Iraq amid political crisis

TEHRAN – Iran once again has called on Iraqi political factions to stick to dialogue to overcome the current political crisis facing Iraq.

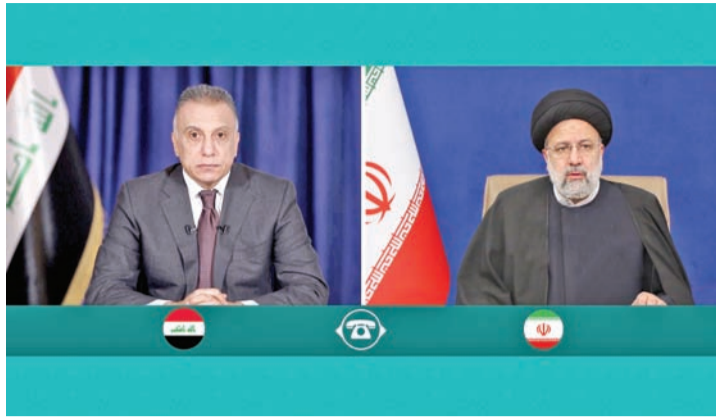
Underlining the need to maintain unity in Iraq, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said, "All the main political currents of Iraq should agree on a way out of the existing political problems through interactive dialogue."

The remarks were made in a phone call between Ayatollah Raisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Monday.

President Raisi emphasized the necessity of implementing the agreements made in relation to the moves of the Iraqi government to improve the political climate of the region and welcomed the acceleration of interactive measures following the implementation of the agreements, according to a readout put out by the Iranian presidency.

In another part of the conversation, President Raisi emphasized the need to facilitate the travel of Iranian pilgrims, especially during the Arbaeen ceremony, which the Iraqi prime minister also promised in this regard.

The Iraqi prime minister also emphasized that he would personally follow the issues related



to the presence of Iranian pilgrims in the Arbaeen ceremony.

During the telephone conversation, referring to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and the world, al-Kadhimi emphasized that he would continue his efforts to improve and raise the level of regional relations and cooperation.

Iraq has been racked by a political commotion since the October 2021 parliamentary election which handed the Sadrist movement a clear, yet inconclusive, victory.

A few weeks ago, the Sadrists began an open-ended sit-in at the Iraqi parliament and on Tuesday the expanded it to include the Iraqi judiciary, a move that prompted al-Kadhimi to cut his visit to Egypt and return to Baghdad to follow the

developments.

"PM @MAKadhimi cuts short his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt and returns to Baghdad in light of recent developments in the country, and to follow-up directly the work of the security forces in protecting the institutions of the judiciary and the state," the Iraqi government said in a statement on Twitter.

It added, "PM @MAKadhimi warned that disrupting the work of the judicial institution exposes the country to real dangers, stressing that the right to protest is constitutionally guaranteed but with the need to respect state institutions. PM @MAKadhimi called for calm, and for an immediate meeting of the leaders of political forces in order to activate the national dialogue and

defuse the crisis."

On August 17, the Iraqi prime minister issued another statement calling for a national dialogue among the country's political factions. This statement came after al-Kadhimi's meeting with most Iraqi political leaders. The Sadrist movement boycotted the meeting.

"The participants expressed their commitment to the national fundamentals, and to finding a solution to all crises through dialogue and adopting a spirit of brotherhood and collaboration in order to preserve the unity of Iraq, the security and stability of its people, the continuity of the constitutional democratic system. They emphasized prioritizing the supreme national interests and the spirit of solidarity among the people of the same country to address the current political crisis," the statement said.

It added, "The participants called on the brothers in the Sadrist Movement to engage in the national dialogue in order to put in place mechanisms for a comprehensive solution to serve the aspirations of the Iraqi people and achieve their goals. The participants agreed to continue the national dialogue in order to develop a legal and constitutional road map to address the current crisis."

SPORTS

Iran stun Japan at 2022 FIBA U18 Asian Championship

TEHRAN – Iran came back from deficit to beat Japan 68-66 in the 2022 FIBA U18 Asian Championship on Tuesday.

Mohammad Amini of Iran earned 23 points, while Japan's Tajon Akira Jacobs earned 13 points.

The 2022 FIBA U18 Asian Championship is an ongoing international U18 basketball competition that is currently held in Tehran, Iran from Aug. 21 to 28.

The tournament, which is also the 26th edition of the biennial competition, will qualify the top four teams to represent FIBA Asia in the 2023 FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup in Hungary.

This is the third time that Iran has hosted the tournament after hosting the 2008 and 2016 editions.

"As an Italian coach working in Iran, I am trying to bring in a new methodology, how to select, scout and train talents. Iran has a huge number of players, and this gives a huge possibility to train these talents," said coach Alessandra Kampedelli.

Iran are scheduled to meet the Philippines on Wednesday.

The 2022 Asian Women's Volleyball Cup, so-called 2022 AVC Cup for Women, is being held at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig, the Philippines from Aug. 21 to 29.

Bam Khatoon lose to Sogdiana-W at AFC Women's Club Championship 2022 West

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan's Sogdiana-W beat Bam Khatoon FC of Iran 1-0 to emerge the AFC Women's Club Championship 2022 (West) winners on Tuesday.

Kurbonova Shahnoza's first half strike proved enough for the Uzbekistan champions to seal the win in a closely contested affair at the Markaziy Stadium in Qarshi.

Sogdiana-W, who dominated the opening match three days ago, carried on from where they left off in the rematch at the Markaziy Stadium, forcing Bam Khatoon to defend deep.

The hosts could have taken the lead as early as the ninth minute when Ana Cheminava sent a through pass into the final third, but defender Behnaz Taherkhani was quick to intercept before Khabibullaeva Diyorakhon could connect.

Despite playing mostly on the counter-attack, Bam Khatoon tried to create opportunities but the disciplined Sogdiana-W defence kept them at bay.

Sogdiana-W's hard work eventually bore fruit in the 32nd minute when Diyorakhon collected a long-range pass at the edge of the box with a brilliant back-heel flick to find a surging Kurbonova Shahnoza, who made no mistake to break the deadlock.

The pressure was now on Bam Khatoon to find the equalizer, but Sogdiana-W controlled the final quarter-hour to maintain their lead heading into the half-time break.

The Iranian champions increased their tempo in the second half in search of the equalizer but were nearly caught napping at the back in the 52nd minute when Zarina Mamatkarimova beat the offside trap to receive a long-range pass, but her tame effort was easily dealt with by goalkeeper Zahra Khajavi.

Bam Khatoon's best chance came in the 78th minute through Kousar Kamali's free-kick, but Zahra Ghanbari failed to keep her diving header on target.

Diyorakhon should have sealed the win for Sogdiana-W in the 88th minute in a counter-attacking move with the forward dashing down the pitch with only the keeper to beat, only to shoot just wide but it didn't matter in the end as the Uzbek side held on for the win.

Iranian striker may miss 2022 World Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian striker and winger Allahyar Sayyadmanesh may miss the 2022 World Cup due to an injury.

Hull City winger sustained a hamstring injury last week in the match against Burnley, PLDC reported.

Earlier, Hull City coach Shota Arveladze said Allahyar would be sidelined for five or six weeks.

However, Hull City News, which is close to the English club, reported on Monday that Sayyadmanesh could be sidelined for at least three months.

This means that the 21-year-old talent may miss the chance to play in Qatar.

Arsalan Bagheri wins bronze at World U18 Snooker Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's Arsalan Bagheri claimed a bronze medal in the 2022 World U18 Snooker Championship.

Liam Davies of Wales has now sensationalized the world of snooker with his commendable win in the championship.

In the final that was played at Sports Hall of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest in Romania, Liam defeated the 2019 World U16 Snooker Champion Antoni Kowalski of Poland 4-3.

The Iranian snooker player claimed the bronze medal along with Thailand's Thitiphong Choolasak.

Hosseinzadeh officially joins Sporting Charleroi

TEHRAN – Iran international midfielder Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh joined Belgian top flight football club Sporting Charleroi.

The 21-year-old played has penned a two-year deal with Sporting Charleroi with an option of two-year extension.

Hosseinzadeh has joined the Zebras from Iranian team Esteghlal.

He helped the Blues win Iran Professional League title after nine years.

Hosseinzadeh made 30 matches for Esteghlal and scored eight goals.

He started his playing career in Saipa and stole the show with the Tehran based club.

Vietnam sweep Iran at 2022 AVC Cup for Women

TEHRAN – Vietnam defeated Iran in straight sets (25-17, 25-14, 25-11) in the preliminary round of the 2022 AVC Cup for Women in Pool A on Tuesday.

Iran had started the campaign with a 3-0 win over South Korea on Monday.

The Vietnamese captain and outside hitter led all scorers on the field with 21 points from 20 attacks and a service ace.

Captain and opposite Mahsa Kadkhoda was Iran's go-to option on offense. She completed the match with 10 points made purely on attack. However, the Iran team could not seem to establish nor maintain their rhythm; neither in offense, nor defense. They suffered from unforced errors, which only saw their opponents picking up good momentum for the straight-sets victory.

Iran can be China's best partner in region: ambassador

From Page 1 ▶ He pointed to the telephone conversation of the presidents and foreign ministers as well as other interactions between the officials of the two countries. "Cooperation between the two countries is expanding in all political, economic, cultural, security and defense fields, and the officials of the two countries have repeatedly emphasized that in the second fifty years of relations, a new horizon has been opened for cooperation between Iran and China," he said, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in China announced the issue of sisterhood between several cities of Iran and China and the opening of the Chinese consulate in Bandar Abbas among other news and capacities to strengthen relations and cultural cooperation between the two countries in the past months.

Keshavarzadeh pointed out that despite the progress achieved in the levels of cooperation between Iran and China, the people of the two countries still do not have enough knowledge and communication with each other.

He stated that today the speed of developments in the two countries is very high. "China and Iran today are different from China



and Iran of the past years. Many of those present at this meeting, who have been in contact with the two countries for many years, have felt this speed of progress. We must try to make our people familiar with the progress of the two countries and their current situation," he continued.

The ambassador of Iran in China considered the idea of the Belt and Road initiative as a good opportunity for the two countries and their people. "Iran and China should be known as two important countries on the Silk Road. If the people know each other correctly, they will take

steps in the development of relations between the two countries," he pointed out.

The ambassador stressed that Iran, as the safest country in the region, can be the best partner for China.

"Iran has the second largest oil and gas resources in the world and can play an important role in providing energy and security to China," he stated.

"On the other hand, Iran's geographical location is unique for China's trade with European countries. Iran is a bridge between China and Europe and a bridge between Central Asia and the high seas."

The Islamic Republic's top diplomat to China expressed hope for the improvement of the conditions of the corona epidemic and the return and increase of the number of Iranian students in Chinese universities.

These students can serve as "ambassadors" to introduce Iran to the Chinese society. In addition to scientific and student cooperation, the expansion of tourism communication can also make a significant contribution to the communication between people of the two countries.

Iran envoy to Baghdad meets Amir Abdollahian, briefs him on developments in Iraq

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to Iraq Mohammad Kazem Al Sadegh met on Monday with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, briefing him on the latest state of affairs and developments in Iraq and ties between the two countries.

Al Sadegh also informed Amir Abdollahian of measures and coordination that have been made for the purpose of holding the Arbaeen rituals, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In the meeting, the foreign minister gave some recommendations and instructions to the Iranian ambassador on relations with Iraq. Amir Abdollahian underlined the necessity of making coordination to hold the Arbaeen ceremonies in

the best possible way and thanked the precious efforts of the Iraqi government and people to this end.

Iraq has been grappling with huge crisis since lawmakers of the Sadrist movement collectively resigned from Parliament and subsequently called for a new early election. The Sadrist movement also staged an open-ended sit-in in front of the building of Parliament in a bid to prevent the formation of a new government. And on Tuesday, followers of Muqtada Sadr, the leader of the movement, held another sit-in in front of the Iraqi judiciary.

Iran has called on Iraqis to listen to the voice of reason and enter dialogue. In mid-August, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani

called on Iraqi political factions to respect Iraq's constitution and legal institutions amid political mutiny in the country.

He said developments in Iraq are important to Iran and that Tehran is undertaking efforts to close the gap between Iraq's political factions.

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

He added, "We call on all Iraq's

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

Kanaani noted that calm and stability in Iraq can be achieved through consensus among the political factions. "Communication with Iraqi friends and brothers is continuous and we have never been disconnected and separated. It is done through the Iranian embassy in Baghdad and the exchange of delegations, and this positive and constructive communication exists," he stated.

The Iranian ambassador to Iraq has been in contact with various Iraqi factions as part of his efforts to calm the situation.

Most JCPOA partners agree with EU proposal: Borrell

TEHRAN – The European Union's coordinator for the Vienna talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal has said that most countries involved in the talks agree with the proposal submitted by the EU.

"Most of them agree, but I still don't have the answer from the United States, which I expect during this week," Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, said in an interview with Spain's national broadcaster TVE on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

The EU submitted its "final" proposal on the Vienna talks to Iran more than two weeks ago.

Iran responded to the proposal after a week. The Iranian response was immediately relayed to the U.S. But the White House is yet to give an answer. American officials have said they were still studying the Iranian response, which Borrell described as "reasonable."

"There was a proposal from me as coordinator of the negotiations saying 'this is the equilibrium we reached, I don't think we can improve it on one side or the other'... and there was a response from Iran that I considered reasonable," Borrell said,

according to Reuters.

He added, "It was transmitted to the United States which has not yet responded formally... I hope the response will put an end to the negotiations."

Borrell claimed that Iran has asked for a few adjustments to the EU proposal, which has not been made public yet.

The proposal, Borrell said, follows 16 months of indirect talks between Iran and the United States, with the EU shuttling between the parties.

Iran's export to China rises 23% in 7 months on year



From page 1 ▶ Iran-China non-oil trade stood at \$14.8 billion in 2021, according to China's customs administration.

The value of trade between the two countries during the previous year declined by less than one percent in comparison to 2020 in which the figure was reported to be \$14.9 billion.

China's imports from Iran in 2021 grew by more than one percent compared to the previous year

and reached \$6.5 billion. China imported \$6.4 billion worth of goods from Iran in 2020.

However, China's exports to Iran in January-December 2021 fell by about two percent to \$8.3 billion from \$8.5 billion in the previous year.

Iran mainly exports foodstuff and agricultural products to China while importing machinery and industrial raw materials, medical equipment, fabrics, and auto parts.

China is one of Iran's main trade partners that has maintained strong trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite the strict U.S sanctions.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Development of 4 major oil, gas fields to begin soon

TEHRAN – Head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said the development projects of four major oil and gas fields are going to commence on the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), IRIB reported.

The executive operations of North Yaran, South Yaran, and Sohrab oil fields as well as Balal gas field in the vicinity of South Pars field in the Persian Gulf will start in the government week, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said on Tuesday on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of a gas pipeline project.

The official noted that in addition to the mentioned projects, several other oil industry development projects will also begin during the mentioned week.

The desalination plants of phases 2 and 3 of South Pars gas field, the connecting pipeline between site 1 and site 2 of South Pars which transfers gas condensate at a minimal cost, a centralized power plant in Asaluyeh and also the start of pipe laying operation of South Pars phase



16 are among the projects that are scheduled to go operational during Government Week, according to Khojasteh-Mehr.

Every year, on the occasion of Government Week numerous development projects are inaugurated in various provinces across the country.

This year too, several development projects in different sectors including oil, gas, water, agriculture, infrastructure, industry, and electricity are slated to go operational across Iran.

TEDPIX gains nearly 7,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- After several days of drop, TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 6,944 points to 1.431 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 6.603 billion securities worth 39.085 trillion rials (about \$140 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 5,374 points, and the second market's index gained 13,111 points.

TEDPIX rose 20,931 points (0.2 percent) in the

past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, 40.58 billion securities worth 228.555 trillion rials (about \$816.267 million) were traded through 1.874 deals at the TSE in the past week.

The number and value of traded securities rose 30 percent and 34 percent, respectively, while the number of deals increased 114 percent in the past week from the preceding week.

Tatarstan determined to boost trade with Iran

TEHRAN – Tatarstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade Korobchenko Oleg Vladimirovich said the Republic of Tatarstan is determined to expand trade with Iran and also play a role in the International North South Corridor (INSTC).

The official, who is visiting Iran on the top of a delegation, made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh in Tehran on Tuesday.

Addressing the meeting, Afandizadeh elaborated on the transportation status of Iran and the country's potentials in different transportation fields, and expounded upon the details of the agreements made between Iran and Russia in the thirteenth meeting of the two countries' transportation committee for developing transit ties.

The Minister of Industry and Trade of Tatarstan, for his part, announced the establishment of logistics centers in Tatarstan in order to increase trade with Iran through the North-South Corridor and Caspian Sea, expressing Tatarstan's desire to be present and play a role in the North-South Corridor.

He also introduced a company active in the field of sea and road transportation with 5,000 trucks to be present in the North-South corridor.

The delegates from Tatarstan also met Head Alireza Peyman, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), on Saturday, during which Vladimirovich said his country is eager to benefit from Iran's experience in circumventing U.S. sanctions.

"In recent months, Russia has faced problems that Iran has been wrestling with over the past 40 years, for this reason, in order to benefit from the experiences of your country to get rid of such problems we have traveled to Iran with a 30-member business delegation," he noted.

In this meeting, Peyman-Pak underlined the industrial and oil and gas capacities of the Republic of Tatarstan, saying: "We are fully ready to develop relations with the Republic of Tatarstan. Fortunately, in the new era, the relations between the two countries have increased a lot and a suitable framework for the cooperation of the parties has been drawn."

He stated that a working group has been set up to organize the two sides' collaborations in various areas including commerce, industry, logistics, and energy.

"I hope today's meeting and the trips you will have to various Iranian cities will be an introduction to the expansion of economic relations and will create a leap in future commercial and industrial cooperation," Peyman-Pak said.

The high-ranking trade delegation from Russia's Republic of Tatarstan also visited Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Saturday to attend a business forum aimed at exploring opportunities for expansion of mutual trade.

The delegation was comprised of the representatives of 45 companies active in a variety of areas including oil, gas and petrochemicals, transportation and logistics,

Iran unveils 1st homegrown wellhead equipment



TEHRAN – An Iranian knowledge-based company has designed and manufactured wellhead equipment with metal-to-metal sealing elements for 15,000 psi working pressures, for the first time in the country, Shana reported.

The dual stem wellhead was unveiled on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by Oil Minister Javad Oji and Head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen

Khojasteh-Mehr.

The equipment worth 300 billion rials (about \$1.1 million) has been manufactured by WETCO which is a manufacturer of Wellhead Equipment in Iran, at the order of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC).

The design, production, testing, and assembly of wellhead equipment has always been one of the goals of the Iranian oil industry, which fortunately was realized with

the efforts of the country's experts and the support of the NISOC.

The mentioned wellhead is going to be used in the fields operated by NISOC in the Maroun region.

The design and manufacturing of the mentioned wellhead have been done completely inside the country and by WETCO experts and primary tests have been successfully conducted on the equipment in accordance with international standards.

A wellhead is a component at the surface of an oil or gas well that provides the structural and pressure-containing interface for the drilling and production equipment.

The primary purpose of a wellhead is to provide the suspension point and pressure seals for the casing strings that run from the bottom of the hole sections to the surface pressure control equipment.

'Rasht-Astara railway could be completed in 4 years'

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi has said Rasht-Astara railway can be completed within four years if the necessary funding is provided for the project.

Khademi made the remarks in a meeting with a Russian delegation in Tehran on Monday, the portal of Transport Ministry reported.

"From a technical point of view, there are no obstacles in the way of implementing the project, and according to the similar experience in Qazvin-Rasht railway construction, if the necessary resources are provided by Russia, this strategic railway will be completed within three to four years," Khademi said.

Iranian Transport Ministry hosted a meeting with a Russian delegation comprised of experts and officials from the country's railways in which the two sides discussed conditions and methods of participation in the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway.

Speaking in this meeting, the Iranian deputy minister emphasized the importance of the International North-South Corridor (INSTC) as



a vital transport highway from St. Petersburg to the ports of Iran and India and said: "The North-South Corridor connects the countries of Northern Europe, Scandinavia, and Russia through Iran with the countries of the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, and its completion will make the cheapest and fastest transit route available to these countries."

Referring to the meeting between the Iranian President and the Prime Minister of Russia and the emphasis of the heads of the two countries on participation in the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway, Khademi said: "This meeting has been held considering the importance of the

operation of this rail route for the two countries in order to review the conditions of cooperation in the field of design and implementation and the technical specifications of the project."

The Astara-Rasht-Qazvin railway is a transport corridor that connects existing railways of Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran. The project is carried out within the framework of the International North-South Transport Corridor. The purpose of the project is to integrate the transport and information routes of Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, and India.

Back in April, Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi said Iran and Russia had reached an agreement on expanding road, rail, sea, and air cooperation and completing the INSTC.

Qasemi said that during a visit to Russia, he had expressed Iran's readiness to exchange experiences and export construction materials such as cement, stone and tiles to Russia, and described the exchange of trade delegations in that industry as a way to develop cooperation in that regard.

Iran, Mali to use barter trade to realize business potentials

TEHRAN – In a meeting between Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi and Mali's minister of trade and industry, the two sides stressed the use of barter trade for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

During the meeting in Mali capital Bamako, Selahvarzi underlined the capacities of the Republic of Mali in the agricultural sector, especially cotton production, and recommended the use of barter trade to develop exchanges between the two countries, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Selahvarzi, who visited Mali to meet with the officials of the country



with the aim of expanding trade ties, referred to the good political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mali as well as the interest and positive attitude of the people of Mali towards Iran and said: "these two factors are valuable advantages for Iranian businessmen and industrialists for cooperation and establishing businesses in Mali."

Pointing out that Africa has always

been at the top of Iran's foreign trade and economic relations development programs, the official added: "Iranian government and the private sector have always been looking for ways to develop relations with African countries, and in this regard, economic cooperation with Mali Republic is of special importance."

Selahvarzi further stated that Iran's capabilities in infrastructure development and technical and engineering services are in line with the market needs of the Republic of Mali, saying: "Considering the appropriate quality and competitive prices of Iranian goods and services, especially in the field of technical and engineering services, there is a possibility of cooperation in various

fields including the installation and operation of textile production lines for the optimal use of cotton in order to produce fabric and clothes."

Since the economy of the Republic of Mali is heavily dependent on the production and export of cotton, this collaboration can also contribute to the economic development of the country, he added.

In this meeting, the minister of industry and trade of the Republic of Mali referred to the history of friendship and positive political relationship between the two countries, saying: "The government of Mali supports and welcomes the development of commercial, economic, and investment collaborations with Iran."

Lack of efficient roadmap, main reason for industrial stagnation: ICCIMA head

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said that lack of an efficient roadmap is the main reason for the lack of success in the country's industrial sector.

Gholam-Hossein Shafeie made the remarks in a meeting with members of the Parliament's Special Committee for Production Growth and Development on Tuesday, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"Despite the existing problems and challenges, serious efforts have been made for the development of the industrial sector, however, the reason for the lack of success in this field is the lack of a roadmap that is welcomed by the public," Shafeie said in the meeting.

In addition to the members of the parliament committee, heads of the chambers of commerce of various provinces and also the heads of ICCIMA specialized committees also attended the mentioned gathering.

Speaking at the meeting, Shafeie underlined the need for taking the necessary measures for supporting the private sector companies active in the industrial sector and noted that the government should place more importance on this sector.



He further mentioned the privatization of some of the country's major industrial companies over the past few years and said: "Both the government and the private sector are unsatisfied with the outcomes of the privatization programs in the country."

"If the direction is not changed, we cannot hope that a certain transformation will happen. It seems that [during the privatization process] government resources are handed over to people who are mostly from the government and not the other way around," the ICCIMA head said.

"Our main issue is not lack of financial resources and capital but the allocation of the resources; this is a much bigger problem that leads to the waste of resources in the country," he said.

"Currently, if we have a detailed investigation on the country's industrial units, we will see that many of them are in unfavorable conditions," he regretted.

Is America losing its grip on the rule of law?

History provides lessons from overseas about how nations following demagogues can be led to disaster.

The nation already had ample indications, before this past week (before August 15), that American democracy is in danger. Donald Trump and his followers tried to overturn one presidential election and have not given up using lies to prepare to reject the results of future elections. What the circumstances necessitating the search and resulting seizure of documents from Trump's Florida residence demonstrate is that the nation also is in danger of seriously diminishing the rule of law and surrendering its fate to those who don't care about the nation's security.

That boxes of classified documents were sitting at Trump's Palm Beach club was not some administrative error. The exact subjects of the documents have not been revealed, but this is a major security breach on multiple levels. Possible direct access to the documents themselves by hostile powers is one problem. Not only Trump himself but anyone who had access to any of the document stash is ipso facto a target for recruitment by hostile services. The damage extends to the lesser willingness of foreign states to share sensitive information with the United States when it sees that this is how the country keeps its secrets—a problem that Trump had already significantly worsened through his careless handling of such information when in office.

Why Trump retained the documents can only be a matter of speculation, especially until and unless more of the subject matter in them leaks out. Maybe he had no purpose in mind other than to show his contempt for anyone or any institution that tries to control his conduct, or to express a kind of *l'etat-c'est-moi* possessiveness. The reportedly chaotic manner in which the material was packed suggests that might be the case.

If he did have more specific purposes, here's one speculation.



Trump may have wanted material that he could leak selectively to undermine the policies of the Biden administration or any future U.S. administration. Doing so would be a follow-on to some of his own policies while in power, such as on Iran and Israel/Palestine, that were aimed not at advancing U.S. interests but instead at tying the hands of his successor.

Regardless of what Trump may have had in mind, the offense concerning the documents is significant. Not as serious as his most grievous offense against the nation, which was the sedition involved in trying to overturn an election and which should take priority in holding him accountable, but still serious enough to require accountability in its own right.

More alarming than any direct damage from the security breach is what the boxes of documents in Palm Beach show about the willingness of Trump, still with a substantial national following, to tear down the rule of law and national security protections along with it. The story of the purloined documents began months ago. Trump resisted returning them even after being well aware that what he was doing was illegal. He returned some documents, but he or his representatives lied about whether that was all of them. The Department of Justice asked, negotiated, subpoenaed, and tried other means to get

compliance with the law. It was only when those means did not work that they had to resort to the search and seizure.

None of this may be surprising with Trump, given his past conduct and the priorities he has exhibited. Skirting the law has been part of his business practices. When in office he exhibited contempt for U.S. agencies that work on national security, for the people who work in those agencies, and for their judgments and products. The only thing that appeared to matter to Trump was loyalty to himself. He liked to surround himself with generals but wished they could be more like the generals who had served Adolf Hitler.

Inflammatory and irresponsible comments, coming even from the congressional leadership of one of the two major parties, assailing the FBI and Department of Justice already have spawned one violent attack on an FBI office and are likely to inspire additional violence. None of this rhetoric has been able to cite any evidence that there was anything improper in how the FBI or Justice Department has handled this case. The haul of classified material is itself the most conclusive indication that the search and seizure were necessary and that the search and the warrant authorizing it were aimed accurately and appropriately. The bureau and the department deserve praise for

upholding the principle that no one is above the law, even when the upholding may be politically uncomfortable.

Those who have rushed to excuse Trump's conduct think in highly partisan terms, but there is far more at stake here than just defeating Democrats and holding on to a legislative seat. History provides lessons from overseas about how nations following demagogues can be led to disaster. Republicans, Democrats, and independents alike ought to be very scared of any indication—and this latest offense by an ex-president, and the excuses made for him, is one such indication—that this nation is losing a grip on the rule of law and on the priority that needs to be given to the nation's security.

The only thing that appeared to matter to Trump was loyalty to himself. He liked to surround himself with generals but wished they could be more like the generals who had served Adolf Hitler.

The drying Danube River reveals explosive-laden WWII Nazi warships

Europe's worst drought in years has pushed the mighty river Danube to one of its lowest levels in almost a century, exposing the hulks of dozens of explosives-laden German warships sunk during World War II near Serbia's river port town of Prahovo.

The vessels were among hundreds scuttled along the Danube by Nazi Germany's Black Sea fleet in 1944 as they retreated from advancing Soviet forces, and still hamper river traffic during low water levels.

However, this year's drought — worsened by human-induced global warming — has exposed more than 20 hulks on a stretch of the Danube near Prahovo in eastern Serbia, many of which still contain metric tons of ammunition and explosives and pose a danger to shipping.

"The German flotilla has left behind a big ecological disaster that threatens us, people of Prahovo," said Velimir Trajilovic, 74, a pensioner from Prahovo who wrote a book about the German ships.

Workers in the local fishing industry are also at risk, including from Romania which lies just across the river.

Months of drought and record-high temperatures have snarled river traffic on vital arteries in other parts of Europe, including Germany, Italy and France. In Serbia, the authorities have resorted to



dredging to keep navigation lanes on the Danube open. Read full story

By Prahovo, some of the hulks have narrowed the navigable section on this stretch of the Danube to just 100 meters (330 feet) from 180 meters.

(Source: CNN)

An aerial view of a World War II warship.

Strewn across the riverbed, some of the ships still boast turrets, command bridges, broken masts and twisted hulls, while others lie mostly submerged under sand banks.

In March, the Serbian government invited a tender for the salvage of the hulks and removal of ammunition and explosives. The cost of the operation was estimated at 29 million euros (\$30 million).

More grain silos collapse at Beirut port, damaged by devastating 2020 blast



impact of the massive explosion of haphazardly stored ammonium nitrate fertilizer that killed more than 200 people on August 4, 2020.

Only 12 of the original 48 silos are still standing, all of them in the southern block, Durand said.

A fire has been burning in the silos for more than a month as remaining grain stocks ferment in the summer heat.

The complex has come to symbolize the tragic blast, but also state negligence and corruption, which many Lebanese blame for the explosion.

"We hold authorities responsible for what happened with the silos," said Mariana Fodoulia, who lost her sister in the explosion.

"We must preserve the southern block of silos" as a memorial, Fodoulia said, echoing the demands of many blast victim relatives.

In April, the government ordered the silos' demolition but the operation was put on hold, partly because of the objections of victims' relatives.

Eight more grain silos at Beirut port toppled Tuesday, succumbing to damage from a devastating 2020 explosion in the third such collapse in a month, AFP correspondents reported.

A cloud of dust rose over the port after the collapse, which brought down the last of the northern block of silos that was more heavily damaged in the blast and where a fire had been burning since last month.

The remaining southern block is more stable and not at imminent risk of collapse, said French civil engineer Emmanuel Durand, who has installed sensors on the silos.

The silos had absorbed much of the

West wants Ukraine conflict to drag on: Turkey

A number of Western nations have no desire to see an end to the Ukraine conflict and are also taking steps to derail a UN-Turkey-brokered grain deal signed by Moscow and Kiev, the latter's foreign minister told local media on Tuesday.

Speaking to Turkish-language outlet Haber Global, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu stated that several Western countries "want the war to continue," adding that it is not only the U.S., but also a handful of NATO members. Apart from this, he did not mention any specific states.

"There were also those who wanted to sabotage the grain deal," he noted, adding that the U.S. had nothing to do with these efforts and is in fact being helpful.

"The U.S. contribution was as follows: the removal of export barriers for Russian fertilizers, unblocking ports, [lifting restrictions on] banking transactions, etc. But some countries from Europe wanted to sabotage it," he said, signaling that Turkey continues to work to make sure the grain deal is upheld.

The agreement to unblock grain exports via the Black Sea was signed by Moscow and Russia at UN-brokered talks in Istanbul in

late July, and aims to maintain safe transit routes. The agreement is also supposed to allow Russia to deliver fertilizers and food products to global markets. Many experts and officials deem the agreement to be instrumental in alleviating global food security issues.

Wheat deliveries from Ukraine, a major producer, were disrupted after Russia launched its military operation in the neighboring state in late February. The sides blamed each other for causing the crisis.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the U.S. of attempting to prolong the Ukraine conflict by "pumping the Kiev regime with weapons, including heavy weapons."

Putin stated that the Ukrainians have been assigned the role of "cannon fodder" in Washington's "anti-Russia project." The president also said that Moscow launched its offensive in Ukraine to "ensure the security of Russia and its citizens, and defend the people of Donbass from genocide."

U.S. President Joe Biden said in June that NATO will support Ukraine "as long as it takes" to make sure Kiev is not defeated.

(Source: RT)

Turkey says no preconditions for 'goal-oriented' dialogue with Syria

Turkey does not have preconditions for dialogue with the Syrian government, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announced on Tuesday, stressing that talks should be goal-oriented.

Ankara cut its diplomatic relations with Damascus in 2011 in the initial stage of the protracted foreign-backed war and backed forces that sought to topple the elected government of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

However, in recent months, Turkey has made soft overtures to the Assad government in an attempt to open a new chapter in their relations.

"There cannot be a condition for dialogue but what are the aim of these contacts? The country needs to be cleared of terrorists... People need to be able to return," Cavusoglu said in his remarks.

"No conditions for dialogue but what is the aim, the target? It needs to be goal-oriented," he hastened to add.

There also confirmed reports doing rounds about contact between the Syrian and Turkish intelligence services.

The top Turkish diplomat, however, said no meeting will take place between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Syrian counterpart during the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in September, "because the latter will not be attending the Shanghai summit".



Last week, reports said Dogu Perincek, a close ally of Erdogan, will travel to the Syrian capital Damascus within the next 10 days. He will be accompanied by Turkish businessman Ethem Sancak, who is considered to have close ties with Erdogan.

The developments reveal the softening of Ankara's stance towards the Syrian government after more than a decade of tensions.

Speaking to reporters last week, the Turkish President said it is Washington and its allied forces that "primarily feed terrorism" in Syria.

Countless reports have emerged over the

years revealing the U.S. military's support for terrorist groups, including Daesh, in Syria and Iraq.

"They did it brutally and they still do it," Erdogan said. "They did not get tired of it, and they also made the same feeding in Iraq. To whom? Again to terrorist organizations. If there is unrest in Iraq today, unfortunately, America lies behind it."

He claimed that Ankara's main contention is the fight against terrorism in northern Syria, adding that Turkey is ready for a military operation against terrorist groups in the Arab country.

The Turkish president also said Ankara is not eyeing Syria and that Syria's territorial integrity is important to Turkey.

The Ankara-backed militants were deployed to northeastern Syria in October 2019 after Turkish military forces launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion in a declared attempt to push YPG fighters away from border areas.

Ankara views the YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.

Both Iran and Russia, which have been aiding Damascus in its anti-terror campaign, have warned Turkey against launching such an offensive.

(Source: Press TV)

Millennia-old cave hyena remains discovered

TEHRAN—Archaeologists have discovered remains of an ancient cave hyena in Qal-e Kord Cave situated in Avaj county of central Qazvin province during a recent excavation survey, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

A team of archaeologists co-led by Iranian archaeologist Hamed Vahdati and French paleoanthropologist Gilles Berillon has recently completed the third round of excavation project on the historical site.

An upper part of the skull of an extinct hyena called a cave hyena, which lived between 500,000 and 11,000 years ago and was first reported from Iran, has been discovered in the region during a recent excavation survey, CHTN quoted Vahdati as saying.

Hand tools with carvings older than the Middle Paleolithic were found in this area, indicating the presence of other human species besides ancient, intelligent man and Neanderthal man, he noted.

Also discovered was a modern man's lower jaw, which was given to the Qazvin museum along with other relics, he mentioned.

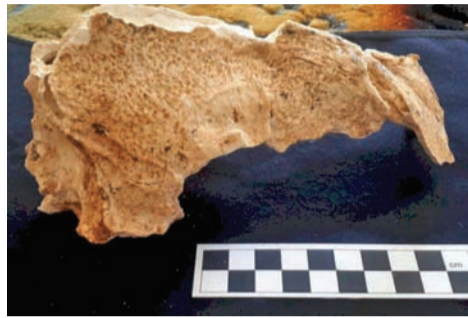
Last week Vahdati announced that evidence found by the team suggested that Qal-e Kord Cave is the oldest human settlement in Iran discovered so far.

According to preliminary results, the cave is over 400,000 years old, making it the oldest human settlement in the country, he added.

So far, two types of extinct prehistoric horses, deer, brown bear, and rhinoceros have been identified in the animal remains found in the cave, he mentioned.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that a fossilized tooth, previously found in the cave, could date back 100,000 years.

The organ was examined in two laboratories in France and the United States, and the results of radiocarbon dating experiments showed that it relates to the oldest-known Neanderthal civilization in Iran.



In November 2018, the first season of the joint Iran-France archeological exploration led to the discovery of over 6,000 cultural pieces in the area. It also yielded bone remains of horses, deer, bears, and many stone tools belonging to the Middle Paleolithic period (between 200,000 to 40,000 years ago).

In the second season of the project in 2019, archaeologists discovered the remains of a horse, which they believed to be hunted by Neanderthals in the cave.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Human Evolution suggests that Neanderthals were roaming at the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

Neanderthals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was based on hunting, some scavenging, and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

Photo exhibit explores historical mosques in Bushehr



TEHRAN—A photo exhibition, depicting historical mosques of southwestern Bushehr province, opened its doors to the public on Monday, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The exhibit aims to promote the historical structures as a part of the region's intangible heritage, Esmail Sajadimanesh explained on Tuesday.

Some of the mosques, however, require restoration, and their revival is on the agenda of the province's cultural heritage department, the official added.

Mosque, according to Islamic tradition, is any house or open area of prayer in Islam. The Arabic word masjid means "a place of prostration" to God, and the same word is used in Persian, Urdu, and Turkish. The first mosques were modeled on the place of worship of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH); the courtyard of his house in Medina.

Iran is home to countless mosques and holy shrines in the country, many of which represent a combination of symmetry, geometric designs and vibrant colors, creating an astonishing view that no visitor can forget easily. The architecture of the mosques in the country varies from one region to another. However, they often boast very complex structures in which color variations, tiles and symbolic designs are utilized.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

Iran's tourism revenues were \$2.5 billion in year

From page 1 ▶ "Domestic travel has achieved some 40 percent increase compared to the pre-coronavirus period," Zarghami said last week.

Experts believe even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. They say Iran is still somehow "unknown" to many potential travelers due to such a "media war."

The minister added one of the priorities that his ministry follows was to develop tourism ties with the neighboring countries.

"Our priority is to strengthen relations with neighboring countries and now we are pursuing the project of cheap overland travels with neighboring countries."



Travelers from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021. Over the past couple of years, neighboring Iraq has been one of Iran's most important markets for tourism and pilgrimage. In January, the deputy tourism chief Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced that Iran had renewed arrangements to facilitate travels

for Iraqi nationals. "For Iraqi tourists visiting Iran, a new system has been implemented to ensure their safety and comfort."

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

prejudices to become thick and thin.

Iran's trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts. As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers, to name a few.

Experts believe that 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.

Safavid-era caravanserai gains former splendor

TEHRAN - A team of cultural heritage experts and restorers has commenced work on the Safavid-era (1501-1736) Khajeh Nazar Caravanserai, which is located in Jolfa, East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran.

The project involves repairing the rooftop as well as the insulation and flushing system, the provincial tourism chief Ahmad Hamzezadeh said on Tuesday.

The historical structure, which is one of the most beautiful caravansaries in the province, has also joined a shortlist of traditional inns that Iran pursues its possible inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage, the official added.

Jolfa borders the countries of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the north.

Jolfa has a semi-desert climate with warm summers and partly cold, moderate winters.

The special importance of Jolfa is due to its historical monuments, strategic location, and appropriate geographical features, as well as its proximity to the commercial and industrial free zone of Aras (one of Iran's most important commercial centers).

Seyyed Abolqasem Nabati tomb, Duzal tower, Saint Stepanos Monastery, Nane Maryam church, ruined mill, Ushtibin village, St. Mary church, Baba Yaqub shrine, Ali Beyg fort, Jolfa historical bath, etc., are the most significant monuments and tourist attractions in this area.

The region's economy is fueled by the abundance of water resources, grasslands, and forest reserves, as well as its high potential for growth and industrialization. Minerals, agriculture, livestock, services, and scientific and training development also play an important role.

Possible UNESCO tag for Iranian caravanserais

Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for collective

inclusion on UNESCO'S cultural heritage list.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran was developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture as well as historical and cultural values.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially official travelers.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, from the number of surviving caravansaries and their sizes, it is clear that in Safavid and Qajar times there was a state architectural department that was specifically concerned with the construction of caravansaries and stations on the overland routes. Furthermore, in the cities, several caravansaries were erected as lodging houses, depots, and commercial offices in the vicinity of the bazaars.

A typical caravansary consists of a square or rectangular plan centered around a courtyard with only one entrance and arrangements for defense if necessary. Whether fortified or not, it at least provided security against beasts of prey and attacks by brigands.

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.

For many travelers, 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.

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.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

It is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais, many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, 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.

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.

Qom's tourism benefits from foreign students of theology

TEHRAN—The presence of foreign students of different nationalities could contribute to the development of tourism in the central province of Qom, the provincial tourism chief has said.

There are students of theology from almost 130 different countries in Qom's Al-Mustafa International University, which is a unique capacity in strengthening the tourism industry of the province, Alireza Arjmandi said on Tuesday.



It may also facilitate foreign investment in the tourism sector of the province, the official added.

Among the programs that can be organized in cooperation with the

university are tourism education programs such as tour leadership for graduates, cultural exchange and introduction of handicrafts, and food festivals of nations, he noted.

The second-holiest city in the country after Mashhad, Qom, is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools). Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage to the holy shrine, the city

is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE-651) and several historical mosques, mansions and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

New projects ready for inauguration in Mashhad

TEHRAN- A total of six projects in the tourism and handicrafts sectors will come on stream in Mashhad on the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), Mashhad's tourism chief has said.

The projects include two five-star hotels, two two-star hotels, a guest house, and a handicrafts market, Hossein Amirkalali explained on Sunday.

A budget of 38 trillion rials (\$126.7 million) has been allocated to the projects, which have been carried out by the private sector, the official added.

Upon their inauguration, the projects will add 1500 beds



to the hospitality sector of the city, he noted.

They will also generate 700 job opportunities, he mentioned.

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city which embraces the shrine complex of the eighth Shia Imam.

Before the coronavirus puts almost everything on lockdown, Mashhad, played host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the holy shrine.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted around the holy shrine. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded.

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Blood Transfusion Organization announces development plans

TEHRAN – Mostafa Jamali, CEO of the Blood Transfusion Organization, while explaining the development plans of the Organization, announced the opening of 6 blood donation centers on the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30).

The organization has advanced laboratories with high-quality equipment control, complying with standards of developed countries, he said.

In this organization, services such as packed blood cells, plasma, platelets, cord blood bank, and irradiated blood are performed in a specialized manner and knowledge, he added.

The development of the blood transfusion organization should move towards justice-centered. In the past, there were 11 screening centers in the country, and now four centers are being set up in other provinces, and by the end of the [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2023), all provinces will have a screening center, he explained.

On donated blood, hepatitis "B", "C" and "HIV" tests are conducted, and screenings in this field are especially desired.

Referring to setting up blood donation centers in the country as one of the other development programs of the Blood Transfusion Organization, he emphasized that "in many cities and also villages, we do not have blood donation centers, and with the support of the government, we intend to set up mobile centers to make blood donation accessible in rural areas."

Antibody tests will be added to the system and advanced blood transfusion services will be developed with government support, he stated.

Currently, 204 blood transfusion



centers are operating in the country, and 6 more centers will be opened during the Government Week, he added.

In the past years, we could meet 20-30 percent of hospitals' needs for blood and blood products in provinces and big cities, but now we can fully meet the whole hospitals' needs, he also said.

Currently, the level of blood storage in the country is good and high. For example, in the province of Sistan-Baluchestan, we were in a red state recently, and the level of blood storage was in the range of two to three days, but now the storage is in the range of 12 days, he explained.

Pointing to the umbilical cord blood bank, he said that there are stem cells in the umbilical cord blood, and the blood stored in the blood transfusion bank will be provided free of charge to leukemia or thalassemia patients.

However, the amount of blood stored in the cord blood bank is low due to the high maintenance costs and the tests that need to be performed, and it needs the support of the authorities, he further noted.

Referring to the human leukocyte

antigen (HLA) bank, he said that the primary use for human leukocyte antigen (HLA) testing is to match organ and tissue transplant recipients with compatible donors.

Iran on par with Europe and U.S.

According to the reports provided by the World Health Organization, Iran competes with Europe and the U.S. in blood donation indices, even outpacing them in one or two cases.

Iran is among the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region as a reference in the field of blood donation activities.

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

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

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

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

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

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

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

According to the World Health Organization, Iran competes with Europe and the U.S. in blood donation indices.

Monitoring forests, tracking wildfires with "Khayyam" satellite

TEHRAN – The newly-launched "Khayyam" satellite is monitoring forest areas and can immediately track wildfires, Reza Bayani an official with Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, has said.

The Iranian Space Agency launched "Khayyam" with a wide range of environmental functions in early August. It was put into orbit by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur space station in Kazakhstan.

Improving productivity in the agriculture sector, surveying water resources, managing natural disasters, confronting deforestation, monitoring border areas and mining explorations are among the main objectives of the satellite.

If a fire occurs in an area during the satellite's rotation, we can record its images at the same moment, and the positive and significant point of this satellite is that its images are periodic, he stated.

In many parts of the world, when some satellites record an image, a certain period of time passes until the next image is recorded, and in most parts of the world, images are sent with a time interval of 15 to 20 days, and during this interval, they use other satellites, but we can use Khayyam in different periods to monitor different areas of the country and have periodic information, he explained.

Extracting periodic information from the earth is the most widely used function of this satellite

for systems such as natural resources, agriculture, and geology to use the earth's platform to be up-to-date at any moment, according to Bayani.

Having a satellite with this resolving power can monitor the borders of the country, changes in vegetation, changes in forests, changes in the boundaries of cities and mines, and how to harvest them, he said.

It can level the type of agricultural products and their quantity and quality in agricultural lands, in addition to monitoring the type of forest species using its data. During a fire, it shows the critical areas and how the vegetation will return to the burnt lands, he concluded.

Canada, Japan and Europe import Iranian pharmaceuticals

From page 1 ▶ Today, all medicine used in the treatment of coronavirus are produced by domestic manufacturers, and if we wanted to import all the items, there would be a high exchange rate, he further stated, emphasizing that COVID-19 vaccine development indicates the pharmaceutical industry's capability.

In 2018, 67 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were

made locally.

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Knowledge-based companies can produce any medicine effective in countering coronavirus or approved by the scientific committee within a week to 10 days, Sourena Sattari, vice president for

science and technology, said.

Also, Iran is capable of producing 28 types of biopharmaceuticals, placing the country third in Asia.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.



Despite the sanctions that have existed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has the strongest health system in the region.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

Two herbal drugs that are effective in healing the symptoms of COVID-19 have been permitted to be produced domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that "none of these drugs are a cure for COVID-19, but they have effects to reduce the symptoms of this disease and should be further investigated."

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و داروی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخلی با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: هیچکدام از این داروها داروی درمان کووید ۱۹ نیستند اما اثراتی برای بهبود علائم این بیماری داشته اند و باید مراحل بررسی بیشتر را طی کنند.

وی گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

Over 147,000 liters of smuggled gasoil seized in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – Maritime security forces have confiscated more than 147,000 liters of smuggled gasoil in the waters around Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

A vessel carrying 147,800 liters of smuggled gasoil intended to leave the country's territorial waters but the consignment was seized by the maritime security forces of Qeshm, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

The smuggled fuel is worth 145 billion rials (about \$500,000), the report added. Seven crew members of the vessel were also detained for further investigation.

Jalal Amini, head of the anti-trafficking police, said in July that smuggled goods worth 2 trillion rials (nearly \$7.1 million) have been confiscated across the country through the third stage of the plan to combat the smuggling of goods and currency.

In order to help domestic production, the fight against smuggling is underway continuously through monitoring of goods (origin and destination), implementation of plans, periodic and intermittent inspections of roads, etc. are on the agenda by the anti-trafficking police throughout the country, he explained.

The smuggled goods include basic goods, home appliances, electronic and medical equipment, car, cosmetics, clothes, and currencies, IRIB reported.

He went on to say that 1,037 accused were



arrested and presented to judicial authorities, and 622 vehicles were seized.

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, MP Hassan Norouzi has said.

Recently, smuggled goods worth 2 trillion rials (nearly \$7 million) have been confiscated across the country.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, a member of the Majlis (the Iranian parliament) energy committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per liter profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country's annual development budget.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan was implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

BIRDS IN IRAN

Part 7

In many cases the number of birds overwintering represents only a small proportion of the total present during the migration seasons, indicating that a large through passage is taking place. 24 species occur in Iran only as passage migrants in spring and autumn, breeding to the north of Iran and wintering to the southwest or southeast.

The remaining 57 non-breeding species include vagrants and rare stragglers, chiefly from central and eastern Asia, and a small number of species which were formerly reported as breeding in Iran but which have not been recorded for many years, e.g., pied crested cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, brown fish owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*, scaly-bellied green woodpecker *Picus squamatus*, black-headed shrike *Lanius schach*, black drongo *Dicrurus macrocereus*, jungle crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*, and desert sparrow *Passer simplex*.

Ornithological investigations in Iran

Prior to the mid-1960s our knowledge of the avifauna of Iran was very sketchy and based to a large extent on the work of a handful of naturalist-explorers who traveled

widely through Iran in the second half of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth century.

The first major account of the birds of Iran to appear in the literature was that of Blandford and the Persian Boundary Commission of 1870-72 (Blandford), which summarized all information obtained till then.

The Russian ornithologist N. A. Zarudny traveled widely in Iran between 1884 and 1904 and published a number of papers in Russian and German on the results of his studies.

He summarized many of these in tabular form in a paper which appeared in the *Journal für Ornithologie* in 1911. From 1935 to 1945, Walter Koelz made extensive collections throughout Iran and Afghanistan.

His material was studied in depth by Charles Vaurie and the information incorporated in a series of over thirty papers which appeared in *American Museum Novitates* between 1949 and 1961 (listed in Burgess, Mokhtarzadeh, and Cornwallis and in Erard and Etchecopar).

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 23

New cases	3,227
New deaths	56
Total cases	7,513,928
Total deaths	143,505
New hospitalized patients	726
Patients in critical condition	1,311
Total recovered patients	7,249,458
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,681,521
Doses of vaccine injected	153,745,680



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AUGUST 24, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able to subdue him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:07 Evening: 20:02 Dawn: 5:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:31 (tomorrow)

Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 4

The great merit of naskh is its respect for proportions. The sizes of identically or similarly shaped letters are uniform and consistent.

The letters and words are not large, but they are well balanced. It is this proportionality and balance that lend beauty to the script.

It is full, neat, and clear and easy to read correctly, and when the harakat are inserted the reading is unmistakable. Balance is obtained by equal distribution of flat and circular forms (roughly half straight and half round) and by heavy and light movements of the pen.

After Yaqut Mosta'semi, the Arabic style that he and his pupils had developed was for a long time accepted in the six scripts. Some of his leading pupils and exponents who were Persian contributed a lot to the progress of calligraphy, and Khorasan, Fars, and Azarbaijan were the main centers of the art and the seats of its chief masters in the 14th-16th centuries.

At the end of the Safavid period, Ahmad Neyrizi (d. 1155/1742) made some experiments with naskh and adopted the style known as Persian naskh, which remains current today. Modern naskh is customarily not ornamented except when used for inscriptions and for short texts.

Modern naskh (its ordinary printed variety is called khatt-e miana) has been further developed to meet the requirements of typography and typing.

It is the script in which the Quran and all kinds of books, newspapers, and periodicals are now printed in Persia, Afghanistan, and the Arab countries.

The harakat and other signs are not inserted, except in printed Qurans (where a slightly different variety of naskh is used), hadith texts, and prayers.

The script used in the Arab countries today for handwritten letters and hurried notes called roq'a originated in Ottoman Turkey and is a simplified form of naskh.

Mohaqqaq

This script was developed from Kufic in the early Abbasid period and is the closest to Kufic; moreover it was the first script to be systematized and geometrically defined by Ebn Moqla, though subsequent masters introduced refinements.

It is significant both on account of its antiquity and because of Ebn Moqla's definition of it. Yaqut Mosta'semi chose it as one of the "six scripts."

It is a stately but simple script, with large-sized letters and regular spaces and is used for writing Qurans and other precious books.

Each letter has a definite individual and consistent shape, and the words are never entangled. Thus, the great merit of mohaqqaq is its legibility.

Alef, kaf, laam, and the "handle" of taa are taller than in other scripts. The whole of each word usually lies on the same line. The loops of median and final ayn and the eyes of fa, qaf, waw, mim, haa, and laam-alef in all positions are open.

The loops of initial, median, and final saad and taa, etc., and also the semicircular final flourishes are kept as shallow as possible in this script but are relatively wide.

Detached alef, kaf, initial or detached laam, the "handle" of taa, and initial ba, etc., are written with a tuft, or in Turkish a so-called curl



Mohaqqaq, Koran by Baysonghor, d. 837/1433-34; library of Astān-e Qods-e Razawi, Mashhad (no. 59)

(zolf), that is, a small blob no bigger than a dot at the start of the stroke; tufting is called sarak, zolf, torra, and tarwis.

The proportion of round to straight strokes in mohaqqaq is estimated at 1.5: 4.5 or 2:4. The pen is moved slowly and with uniform pressure, so that there is no variation of thickness and thinness in the strokes.

Rayhan

This script (also called rayhani), reputedly devised by Ebn al-Bawwab, is a derivative of mohaqqaq but did not come into use until many years later.

It has all the special qualities of mohaqqaq, but the pen strokes and letter shapes are thinner and more graceful, and the vertical strokes are shorter.

It is a very elegant script. At first sight mohaqqaq and rayhan may seem to resemble thulth, but there are clear differences particularly in the letter shaping: the bowls (kaasa, i.e., upturned semicircles) are wider and more regular, the bows (qaws, i.e., inverted semicircles) are smaller, and the eyes are more open than in thulth. The harakat and other signs are finer, and the ornamentation is sparser and much simpler.

The mohaqqaq and rayhan scripts were used for writing Qurans in many Muslim countries up to the 16th and 17th centuries and were particularly valued for their legibility; but, perhaps because they have to be written slowly and the necessary time could not be spared, they gradually fell out of use. Rayhan endured longer than mohaqqaq.

Thulth

The thulth script appears to have evolved through several channels from a style called khatt-e jali "the majestic script," which was a derivative of Kufic.

As a calligraphic term jali meant large or "fat" as opposed to khafi "hidden," which meant small or "thin"; it has now been replaced by jali "clear."

Ebn Moqla, in a work entitled Asnaf al-kottab, makes the following statements about the use of thulth in his time: "The style which was most often used and was clearer than the other styles was the thulthayn style.

Photo: Mohaqqaq, Holy Quran by Baysonghor (d. 1433-34)

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
 To be continued

Iranian voice actor Manuchehr Esmaeili dies at 83, did multiple parts in one film

From Page 1 ▶ One of these filmmakers was Ali Hatami, known as the Hafez of Iranian cinema due to the native and poetic ambiance of his movies.

Esmaeili lent his voice to three characters in each of Hatami's TV series, "Hezardastan" and his film "Mother".

Born in Kermanshah, Esmaeili moved to Tehran along with his family and began his studies in a school for Islamic sciences where he was assigned the daily task of reciting verses of the Holy Quran at the beginning of the class.

However, theater was his first interest. Due to his father's strong opposition, he never could pursue this interest during his adolescence. His father's disapproval, could not stop him; during his high school years, he performed in several plays along with his classmate, Behruz Vosuqi, who later turned out to be a star in Iranian films during the 1970s.

Due to his desire for dramatic arts, Esmaeili quit high school when he was 18.

Dariush Films, a studio that offered courses on voice acting and hired its top graduates to dub Iranian films in Italy, published an advertisement that led Esmaeili to the voice acting field.

He resumed his studies at high school and received a diploma. After voicing minor characters in several movies, dubbing director Ali Kasmai, selected Esmaeili to voice Pierre Brasseur, star of "Porte des Lilas", a 1957 French-Italian dramatic film directed by René Clair.



Top Iranian voice actor Manuchehr Esmaeili in an undated photo.

His work won great acclaim from critics such as Parviz Davai. He also worked in Victor Tourjansky's 1959 adventure drama "Prisoner of the Volga".

Esmaeili earlier said that he reached his zenith in 1961 with his work in William Wyler's 1959 "Ben-Hur".

He lent his voice to numerous characters played by dozens of film stars, including Steve McQueen, Humphrey Bogart and Anthony Quinn.

He worked as a voice actor and dubbing director in over 200 films and series, which achieved him recognition and respect as "an eternal voice".

"The 1960s and 1970s were the golden age of Iran's dubbing, as the works done during the decades demonstrate. It was like Hollywood, which was once pure and clean, but at present, it is not so," Esmaeili said in an interview published by ISNA in 2007.

Kosovo Ferfilm festival to screen films from Iran

From Page 1 ▶ The Iranian-American co-production "Philadelphia Iran Afghanistan" is a documentary that follows an Iranian international film student in Philadelphia who meets an Afghan immigrant. He tries to talk to him about migration, displacement and loneliness in their mother tongue, Persian.

In "The Zoo", six-year-old Ranna's mother tells her, "Your father has left forever. We will live together from now on." The mother reveals this news in the zoo, while Ranna has had a dream about a deer that ran away from the zoo that same day and its cage was empty.



A scene from "The Zoo" directed by Nafiseh Zare.

"Katvoman" shows a mom and son playing dressed up as Batman and Catwoman before dad returns for dinner. Through the play, the child will discover a difficult truth about his parents.

"Swell" by Kayvan Sarvati, "The Dumpster Diver" by Farrokh Sadeqikol, "The Ring" by Roham Rasuli and "Water and Color" by Adnan Zandi will compete in the different sections of the festival, which take place from September 2 to 6 in Ferizaj.

The festival also plans to organize tours and other events to promote cultural diversity in Kosovo.

Jennifer Clement's "Gun Love" published in Persian

TEHRAN - "Gun Love", a novel by American-Mexican author Jennifer Clement, has been published in Persian.

Michka Sarmadi is the translator of the book published by Cheshmeh.

Fourteen-year-old Pearl France lives in the front seat of a broken-down car and her mother Margot lives in the back. Together they survive on a diet of powdered milk and bug spray, love songs and stolen cigarettes.

Life on the edge of a Florida trailer park is strange enough, but when Pastor Rex's "Guns for God" program brings Eli Redmond to town Pearl's world is upended.

Eli pays regular visits to Margot in the back seat, forcing Pearl

to find a world beyond the car. Margot is given a gift by Eli, a gun of her own, just like he's given her flowers. It sits under the driver's seat, a dark presence.

"Gun Love" is a hypnotic story of family, community and violence. Told from the perspective of a sharp-eyed teenager, it exposes America's love affair with firearms and its painful consequences.

Clement is the president of PEN International and the first woman to be elected since the organization was founded in 1921.

She grew up in Mexico City, Mexico. She studied English literature and anthropology at New York University and also studied French literature in Paris, France. She has an MFA from the



Front cover of the Persian edition of Jennifer Clement's novel "Gun Love".

University of Southern Maine.

Clement is the author of the novels "Prayers for the Stolen", "A True Story Based on Lies" and "The Poison That Fascinates".

She also wrote the acclaimed memoir "Widow Basquiat" on the painter Jean Michel Basquiat and New York City in the early 1980s.

Clement is also the author of several books of poetry, including "The Next Stranger", "Newton's Sailor", "Lady of the Broom" and "Jennifer Clement: New and Selected Poems".

Her prize-winning story, "A Salamander-Child" is published as an art book with work by the Mexican painter Gustav Monroy. Her books have been translated into 24 languages.

Unveiling "Summer of 1990"



In a ceremony on August 21, Morteza Sarhanghi's "Summer of 1990" was unveiled.

The head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the chief of the Art Bureau

of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, the manager of Soore Mehr publishing, as well as a number of other authors, managers, and activists, were present at this ceremony.

At the outset of his speech, Morteza Sarhanghi gives thanks to everyone who helped with the writing and publication of the book.

"I must work and proceed. I heard that 10 million letters were swapped between Iranian prisoners and their families! I'm not sure where these letters are, but ten thousand of them were collected with a small attempt, and they contain research subjects, verses and narrations, paintings, and hopes!" said Sarhanghi.

He gave an explanation of his newest book and stated that the Iraqi captives in Iran are its subject.

According to the author, one of the stories in the book, which was told by a commander of that camp, is about how, one day, while they were busy and furious about three escaped prisoners,

an elderly villager came to their office and said, "The prisoners are in his house!" They accompanied him to verify his story, and they discovered that he was telling the truth. The three prisoners were in his home, where his wife had prepared a wonderful meal for them. All three of the prisoners were eating chicken at the time. The lady claimed that they were her guests and wouldn't allow them to take the prisoners! Before taking them, they must wait for them to finish their meals.

Furthermore, Morteza Sarhanghi noted that they write to prevent forgetting!

"These events and issues must not be forgotten. It should not be forgotten that Iraq received assistance from 34 countries during the war with us. This is crucial to the war and demonstrates how Iraq benefited from international assistance! Although some of these issues and stories are humorous and others are very sad, they are all crucial," he added.

The book was unveiled in front of those present at the ceremony in the final part.