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Iran, Africa Open New Chapter in Relations

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Report Palestinians decry U.S. inaction over Israeli raids

Palestinian organizations who saw Israeli regime forces raid their property in the occupied territories last week have denounced the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden's lethargic response saying Washington's inaction puts their staff at risk of arbitrary detention and torture.

The regime raided seven civil society and human rights groups in the occupied territories last week. The same seven groups has been labeled as "terrorist groups" by Israel late last year. It's a designation the regime uses every time it wants to continue its genocide campaign.

Israel's war minister who handed down the designations against the groups is Benny Gantz, who is likely to be of much interest in the International Criminal Court's investigation (opened last year) into war crimes in the occupied West Bank and the Besieged Gaza Strip.

The United States and Israel, as well as many of Tel Aviv's European allies, some of whom have sent donations to the organizations targeted by Gantz, oppose the ICC's investigation in Palestine.

Three of the organizations targeted – al-Haq, Addameer, and Defense for Children International, Palestine – have provided evidence for the ICC investigation. Page 5

Report Technological advancement: a path towards knowledge-based economy

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Over the past year, in order to realize a resilient and knowledge-based economy, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has implemented a series of activities to further develop the ecosystem of innovation and technology in the country.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology was founded in 2006 as one of the sub-sets of the government with the slogan of moving from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based one, aiming at increasing technological capabilities and innovation in order to generate wealth from the knowledge and improve people's quality of life.

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunications, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating". Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development. Page 7



TEHRAN – A total of eight health projects and four medical treatment projects were inaugurated within the framework of a national conference called "Eternal Service".

The national conference was held on Saturday coinciding with the fourth day of the Government Week (August 24-30), with President Ebrahim Raisi and

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi in attendance.

In this conference, eight health projects and four treatment projects came on stream.

Some 25 martyred doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, and their families were honored during a special ceremony.

Moreover, 245 medical treatment buildings with a total area of 108,411 square meters equipped with 10,800 beds were inaugurated online in eight regions.

During the ceremony, President Raisi said more than 90 percent of medicine in the country is produced domestically and the country is one of the reliable sources of medicine.

Iran's 5-month non-oil exports increase 21%

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$20.924 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), up 21 percent compared to the last year's same period, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Alireza Moghadasi, Iran exported 44 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned five months which was 3.5 percent less than the figure for the previous year's same period, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, some 14 million tons of goods valued

at \$21.665 billion were imported into the country, indicating a 19-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same time span, he said.

The weight of the imported goods declined by 8.5 percent, year on year, the official added. Page 4

U.S., Europe have no option but to accept JCPOA: assistant

TEHRAN – An assistant to the Iranian president has said that the United States and Europe have no other option but to accept the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The assistant, Mohsen Rezaei, considered that economic pressure on Iran is the last bullet for America and Europe, saying, "At the current stage, the American and European side has no choice but to accept the nuclear agreement."

Talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), started in April 2021 and are now in the final stage.

Rezaei said Iran is currently implementing a unified foreign policy from the highest level in the country, and the government, parliament and judiciary are adopting the same policy as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, according to Al Alam. Page 3

has yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

"Sialk is one of the most important hubs of civilization in Khashan and Iran. Due to this importance, determining the area and boundaries of this ancient site is the expertise of archaeologists and the final opinion must be announced by those experts," Isfahan's tourism chief Ahmad Danainia said earlier this month. Page 6



Khaf, an open-air museum of ancient mosques
One of the ancient yet spectacular towns of Khorasan Razavi province is Khaf, which is somehow an open-air museum of centuries-old mosques with significant architecture in northeast Iran. Those places of worship, even the ruined ones, still represent a combination of symmetry, geometric designs, and vibrant colors, creating an astonishing view that no visitor can forget easily.

Archaeologists have excavated 5,000-year-old home in heart of Iran

TEHRAN—During their excavations in the Sialk hills, archaeologists have recently uncovered the ruins of a home, which according to preliminary estimates dates at least 5,000 years.

"Archaeologists in Sialk have recently discovered the ruins of a house which dates back to the 4th century BC," National Museum of Iran Director Jebrael Nokandeh said on Friday.

Earlier this month, a team of cultural heritage experts and archaeologists was tasked with conducting extensive field research to

verify the legal boundary of the magnificent Sialk hills, which are situated near Khashan in the heart of Iran.

The house is very worn out and in the coming days we (the archaeologists) will go to the lower layers of the southern hills of Sialk, which probably date from 5,500 to 6,000 years ago, Nokandeh, who leads the survey, said.

Situated halfway between Khashan and Fin in Isfahan province, Tappeh Sialk ("Sialk Hills")

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Opinion

You will always be in our hearts

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – No matter how many years passed, Gholamreza Takhti will remain in hearts of the Iranian people. Today is his date of birth. Happy birthday Pahlevan.

Takhti is the most popular athlete of Iran in the 20th century, although so many of Iranian athletes have won more international medals than he won but he is still a hero to many Iranians.

Takhti was found dead in his room in Atlantic Hotel in Tehran on Jan. 7, 1968. His funeral drew hundreds of thousands of mourners at the Ibn Babawayh Cemetery in his birthplace.

He won a gold medal in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and two silvers in 1952 Helsinki and 1960 Rome and narrowly missed a fourth Olympic medal at Tokyo 1964 when he finished fourth.

Takhti tended to act fairly when competing against rivals during his career, something which originated from traditional values of Zurkhaneh, a kind of heroic behavior that epitomizes chivalrous qualities known as Javanmardi.

A famous example was a match against Russian wrestler Alexander Medved who had an injured right knee. When Takhti found out that his opponent was injured, he avoided touching the injured leg and tried to attack the other leg instead. Takhti lost, but he valued honorable behavior.

Another example of his character comes from a match in Moscow. After defeating the then-world champion Anatoli Albul, Takhti saw the sorrow on the face of Albul's mother. Takhti went to her and said, "I'm sorry about the result, but your son is a great wrestler."

She smiled and kissed him.

Takhti is not famous for what he achieved in the mat, he is famous for what he did in the life.

You will always remain in our hearts.

Italy archeological film festival picks movies from Iran

TEHRAN – Eight Iranian movies will be competing in different categories of the Rovereto Archeologia Memorie (RAM) Film Festival in Italy.

"The Radkan Tower" directed by Ehsan Mollazadeh and Hojjat Heidari, and "Isatis" by Alireza Dehqan will be screened in the Archeological Cinema Section of the festival, which will take place in Rovereto from September 28 to October 2.

"The Radkan Tower" is about a 25-meter conical brick tower in Iran, which has attracted visitors for centuries. It is a very advanced astronomical instrument, built almost 800 years ago under the supervision of Khawaja Nasir ad-Din al-Tusi, which has the ability to determine the exact moment of the change of each season, bringing the good news of the arrival of the spring. Page 8

Negotiating team lives up to all redlines: Iran nuclear chief



TEHRAN- The vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) stated on Friday that the negotiation team has adhered to all of Iran's redlines, remained strong, and taken use of all available chances.

"The efforts made by the Iranian negotiation delegation must lead to the removal of the imposed sanctions on pretext of our nuclear program, and this nuisance would be lifted off the Iranian nation's heads," said Mohammad Eslami, who was visiting the port city of Bushehr on behalf of the cabinet during Government Week.

According to him, the deal must enable Iran to resume its regular economic and commercial relations with the rest of the world and carry out its development objectives without impediment.

"If we don't not take long stride, or set great

goals, and not relying on precise plans and strong will, the enemy will definitely proceed faster. And the stronger we move towards advancement, their speed in moves against us will naturally decrease every day," he pointed out.

The AEOI chairman added that the enemy's economic war against Iran truly started in 2017 and that the Americans intended to quickly deploy all of their energy to undermine the Islamic Republic.

"America intended to destroy the Islamic Republic before the 40th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, but thanks to the Leader's guidance, their entire plots faced defeat," he said in reference to Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA and imposition of maximum sanctions pressure against Iran.

'If US acts realistically, it will be possible to implement prior accords in accordance to nuclear deal'

TEHRAN- According to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, if the U.S. takes a realistic approach, it will be possible to implement prior accords in compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal under modified terms.

The senior Iranian diplomat made the remarks in a meeting with his Tanzanian counterpart Liberata Mulamula on Friday while on a tour of Africa, that started on Tuesday.

Amir Abdollahian referred to the most recent developments in the negotiations regarding possible revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and lifting sanctions against Iran, saying if the U.S. behaves realistically in negotiations, it will be possible to implement the prior agreements under the new circumstances.

Amir Abdollahian was on a tour of Africa when Washington replied to Iran's response to a proposal from the European Union to break the JCPOA negotiations' present stalemate.

The EU presented its proposal, which it called "final" on August 8. Iran responded to the text on August 15, that was described as "reasonable" by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. However, the U.S. responded to the proposal on August 24.

The JCPOA was first reached in July 2015 between Iran and certain major nations,

including the U.S. However, in May 2018, the U.S. unilaterally and illegally withdrew from the agreement as a result of pressure from Israel and powerful Zionist lobbyists in the United States. The U.S. reintroduced the penalties that had been lifted under the agreement and added new ones.

Amir Abdollahian also urged efforts to expand the agreements made at the inaugural session of the Iran-Tanzania joint commission for comprehensive cooperation to other areas during the meeting with the Tanzanian foreign minister.

Iran's chief diplomat and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan also discussed strategies for boosting commercial and trade ties between their two nations in a separate meeting on Friday.

The foreign minister called for removal of barriers to presence of Iranian businesses and individuals in the Tanzanian market while highlighting Iran's strengths in a number of areas, including commerce, energy, industries, technology, and academic education.

Amir Abdollahian was leading a high-ranking economic team from both the corporate and government sectors on a tour of Africa that took him to Mali, Zanzibar and Tanzania.

Iran, Tanzania plan to deepen cooperation in number of fields

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has stressed that Tehran and Dodoma intend to create a roadmap to hasten the growth of their bilateral ties in a number of areas.

Amir Abdollahian told reporters that he expected to see the president of Tanzania upon his arrival there on Thursday for his African tour and deliver to him an invitation from President Ebrahim Raisi to visit Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian stated that businesspeople and industrialists joining him on this tour to meet in Dar es Salaam to explore ways to develop mutual cooperation.

Liberata Mulamula, Tanzania's foreign minister, welcomed her Iranian counterpart's arrival and told reporters that the two nations had extremely good connections.

Amir Abdollahian started a tour of Africa on Monday which took him to Mali, Zanzibar and Tanzania.

At a joint news conference with his Malian

counterpart Abdoulaye Diop in Bamako on Tuesday, Amir Abdollahian said terrorism in West Asia and Africa is the result of extra-regional influence.

"Interference by some extra-regional countries is the reason behind the formation of some terrorist groups in the West Asia region and Africa," the top Iranian diplomat highlighted.

The Iran-Mali joint cooperation commission signed a document at the end of its first meeting and decided to conduct the next session in Tehran.

Before embarking on his regional tour to Africa on Monday, Amir Abdollahian stated that the Islamic Republic is committed to strengthening connections with all countries in the world.

In terms of foreign policy, Iran's foreign minister stated, "Our priorities include Asia, neighboring countries as well as some other countries, including those in the African continent."

Promoting educational justice top priority for govt.: Raisi

TEHRAN- In a gathering with medalists from the national and international scientific Olympiads on Thursday evening, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that expanding educational justice is a top government aim so that all youngsters in Iran can develop their potential.

"The achievements of the country's elites in the world scientific Olympiads are one of the most important examples of creating hope in the country and expanding the spirit of self-confidence in the society," the president said, referring to the educated and highly talented persons as the flag bearer of the national motto "WE CAN".

Buoyed by the success of medalists, he said, "Hoisting the holy flag of the Islamic Republic and making the country proud in any field is very sweet and pleasant for the society."

"Human knowledge is an expression of God's wisdom and its first consequence should be the salvation of man," the president said, saying the scientific accomplishments of the talented students is

the result of the Almighty's attention.

Emphasizing the crucial role that intellectuals and elites play in advancing and promoting the status of the Iranian society, the president said the government is sincerely committed to devise efficient systems to let the talents to flourish.

Talented persons are the most crucial national capital to achieve sustainable development, the president remarked.

"You medalists of the national and international arenas should not leave the stage due to hardships; you intellectuals and elites are supposed to solve the problems of the society," Raisi told the national and international science Olympiad medal winners, their families, and professors and teachers involved in the scientific fields.

The president emphasized the significance of the Young Researchers Club's role in assisting the elites and called for continued empowerment of the organization in accordance with its significant objectives



and responsibilities in establishing the elite network.

In addition, Raisi urged other organizations, such as the Academic Jihad, the Office of Vice-President for Science and Technology, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Health, and Azad University, to collaborate more and create conditions for creating job opportunities.

Explaining the important responsibility of the elites, Raisi noted "hope in God and divine attention", "avoiding despair and hopelessness", "tireless efforts" and "hard work in acquiring knowledge" are among the duties of elites to solve the problems of the society.

The president also paid tribute to the memory of the Royan Research Institutes founder, martyr Kazemi Ashtiani, saying, "His name is a sign of will, decision, research, knowledge, and technology."

With few resources and the motto "WE CAN," he founded the Royan Research Institute, Raisi said.

He went on to underscore that "the enemy does not want

us to have medal-winning people in our country who will help increase production, the activity of knowledge-based companies, and the establishment of job-creating units, but our duty is to stand against them diligently so that the enemy becomes desperate and forced to retreat."

"If in the past the enemy sought to loot the reservoirs and mines of the countries, today it is seeking to attract the brains and elites of other countries in the cognitive, electronic, cyber and software war," the president remarked.

"Creating hope," "creating fields for flourishing talents," and "providing a platform for the growth and excellence of the talents of the elites" are among the duties of the officials.

"All youngsters of Islamic Iran should have the chance to develop their skills," Raisi said in the concluding parts of his address. "And the administration, as it has already indicated, regards educational justice as the basic infrastructure of balanced growth in the nation."

Iran calls for decisive stance on Israel's nuclear activities

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations has emphasized the need for a decisive position of the countries in the 10th NPT review conference towards Israel based on the resolutions of the previous conferences.

Majid Takht Ravanchi highlighted Israel's possession of nuclear weapons in the region and called for its denuclearization.

He made the remarks in a briefing with Iranian reporters in New York on Friday.

"The issue of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons is one of the most important issues for the Islamic Republic of Iran," he told the reporters, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA. "The issue of the Middle East as a region free of nuclear weapons is one of the important debates that all the countries of this region are suffering from, because the Zionist regime, as the only regime possessing hundreds of nuclear warheads, is not ready to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). And it does not put its nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Takht Ravanchi emphasized, "Not only does the Zionist regime not carry out this action, but some countries cooperate with this regime and it is always supported by these countries during the NPT conference and outside it."

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations continued, "This issue is one of the important issues for the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the 10th NPT Review Conference, we have had a constructive approach in this field and we have announced that the documents that were presented during the previous NPT Review Conferences in 1995, 2000 and 2010 and clearly stated that the Zionist regime should join the treaty should be discussed and expressed in the text of the final statement of this conference (tenth conference)."

Takht Ravanchi stated "If this issue is not stated in the text of the final statement of this conference, it shows that there is no preparation for the 10th NPT review conference to pass its resolutions by consensus."

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations emphasized, "In the negotiations, we have said very clearly that we are not ready to back down. This means that this conference should take a position on the Middle East debate that is behind the previous conferences."

He added, "We have stated that this issue is one of the red lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If they want to deal honestly and constructively, the language that was used in



the statements of the previous conferences should also be used in this conference in order to move towards a Middle East without nuclear weapons."

Takht Ravanchi noted, "We are trying to reach a consensus, but we will not do it at any cost; We have a framework and principles, and actions must be taken to reach a consensus. If our red lines are respected, we will definitely welcome to reach a consensus, otherwise we will not reach a consensus."

Referring to the importance of the 10th NPT Review Conference, Takht Ravanchi pointed to the active and constructive presence of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasized, "We have a series of red lines that we hope we can reach a consensus with the cooperation of other countries, some of which have mostly not had a good record of having a constructive relationship."

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said, "Some countries caused the failure of conferences in the past, for example, in 2015, some Western countries caused the failure of the NPT conference. We hope that they will put aside this conflict in this conference so that we can have a good document and reach a consensus."

Stating that the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most active delegations of this conference, Takht Ravanchi considered the issue of nuclear disarmament as one of the other important issues for Iran.

He noted, "Unfortunately, the countries possessing nuclear weapons, contrary to Article 6 of the NPT Treaty, have not fulfilled their obligations and have not moved towards nuclear disarmament while they had committed to moving towards nuclear disarmament in good faith. But not only did they not do such an action, but they have quantitatively and qualitatively upgraded their nuclear weapons and formed a coalition that is against their commitments."

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued, "Another important issue for us is the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and as a member of the treaty, we should be able to use the benefits of this treaty (NPT)."

He noted, "Over the years, cruel sanctions have been imposed on Iran and we have been deprived of being able to use its benefits within the framework of the NPT treaty."

He concluded, "Nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states are both active in this conference. This conference has been held every five years since 1970, but it was not held two years ago due to the Corona epidemic, and the tenth conference was held this year. The three main axes of this conference are nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy."

In the conference, Iran called for more attention to Israel's nuclear weapons. "The best way to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects is the full and effective implementation of the Treaty's Articles I to VI and universal adherence to the NPT," Iran said in a statement to the Subsidiary Body III of the Tenth NPT Review Conference on August 9.

The statement added, "Therefore, we believe that the Review Conference should accord the required attention to this critical issue. In this context, the Israeli regime is a vivid example requiring urgent attention of the Review Conference. Because, this regime possesses all types of weapons of mass destruction and threatens to use them against the regional countries. It has committed various terrorist attacks against nuclear scientists and has also initiated different sabotage attacks against nuclear facilities. Taking into account the totality of this insidious background, the Israeli regime must be forced to join all related instruments, including the NPT, without any precondition and as a non-nuclear party while placing all of its nuclear facilities and activities under the comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA."

It added, "Unfortunately, certain NWSs [nuclear-weapon states] reward nuclear-armed non-parties with nuclear cooperation and trade in nuclear power reactors. For instance, they continue to provide a great deal of economic and military aid to the only non-party to the NPT in the Middle East. With this kind of assistance, the Israeli regime has afforded to run its un-safeguarded nuclear facilities at which it produces plutonium for its underground nuclear weapons program."

The statement further noted, "In addition, it is a matter of deep concern that certain States Parties continue to impose unilateral and arbitrary restrictions beyond the IAEA safeguards on the transfer of nuclear materials, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes. Regrettably, such restrictions are applied to NPT States Parties where non-parties to the Treaty with nuclear weapons arsenal benefit from nuclear cooperation by certain nuclear-weapon States."

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has praised his talks with the high-ranking officials of Tanzania.

During his visit to Tanzania, Amir Abdollahian met with his Tanzanian counterpart Ms. Mulamula and the African country's president, Samaia Suluhu Hassan.

"In Tanzania, I had an excellent and constructive talks with President Ms. Samaia Hassan and my counterpart. Managers of multiple ministries and the private sector are accompanying me and have specialized meetings. All are working to strengthen relations. The relations between the two countries are on the path of progress," Amir Abdollahian said on Twitter.

In his meeting with the Tanzanian president, Amir Abdollahian extended greetings to Ms. Suluhu Hassan and invited her to visit Iran on behalf of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. The Iranian foreign minister also said the 13th Iranian administration's foreign policy gives priority to expansion of ties in all areas with African countries in particular Tanzania, according to the Iranian foreign minister.

Amir Abdollahian pointed to



the huge economic possibilities of Iran including in the trade, energy, industrial, technological and academic fields. He then underlined the need for efforts to increase the number of Iranian companies and businesspeople in Tanzania and to remove some consular hurdles including visas for travelling to the African country.

Ms. Samaia Suluhu Hassan for her part greeted the Iranian foreign minister and his entourage and called for boosting

economic and trade interactions between the two countries.

She also welcomed President Raisi's invitation to visit Iran, announcing plans to make the trip

by the end of 2022.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with his Tanzanian counterpart Ms. Mulamula.

In this meeting, Amir Abdollahian underlined the necessity of implementing agreements concluded by the two countries at the first session of the joint commission of comprehensive cooperation and those reached during meetings with Tanzanian officials, especially with the country's president.

Amir Abdollahian described the solution of the issue of visa for those interested in doing business in Tanzania as a prerequisite for expansion of ties to desirable levels.

The Iranian foreign minister went on to outline the latest state of the sanctions removal talks.

Amir Abdollahian stressed that if the US acts realistically, it's possible to implement previous deals with new terms.

Amir Abdollahian's tour of Africa also included visits to Mali and Zanzibar. He met with the top-level officials in Mali and Zanzibar. In these meetings, he underlined the need for strengthening relations.

Amirabdollahian told Zanzibar's President Hussein Mwinyi that the Islamic Republic is ready to facilitate the presence of Iranian businesspeople in Zanzibar.

Amir Abdollahian said the foreign policy of the 13th Iranian administration emphasizes ties with Africa. He added that historical and cultural relations between Iran and Zanzibar provide fertile ground for the expansion of economic ties between the two sides.

The foreign minister said trade, academic, industrial and interurban relations are among areas in which Iran and Zanzibar can work.

At the end, Amir Abdollahian extended the Iranian president's formal invitation to the president of Zanzibar to visit Tehran.

SPORTS

Iranian cyclists win medals at Track Asia Cup 2022

TEHRAN – Mohammad Rahimabadi and Amir Ali Alizadeh claimed one gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the Track Asia Cup 2022 on Saturday.

Rahimabadi claimed a gold medal in the Men Junior's 1000m Time Trial with a time of 1:07.772.

Malaysian cyclist Jusena Mohd Akmal Nazimi won the silver with 1:09.094 and Alizadeh seized the bronze with 1:09.937.

In the Men Junior's Keirin, Rahimabadi and Alizadeh won a silver and a bronze medal, respectively.

Gold medal was won by Malaysian cyclist Jusena Mohd Akmal Nazimi.

Track Asia Cup 2022 is being held in Suphan Buri, Thailand from August 26 to 29.

The 2022 AVC Cup for Women is the seventh edition of the Asian Cup, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF).

The tournament is being held in Pasig, Philippines, from August 21 to 29.

Estili praises Wales teamwork ahead of World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran football director has said his side must not concentrate too much on stopping Gareth Bale in their World Cup group match in Qatar because Wales are no longer a one-man team.

Hamid Estili was speaking about the threat the former Real Madrid star – who has scored 38 goals for his country – poses ahead of the match at the Al Rayyan Stadium on Nov. 25.

"Wales qualified for the World Cup on the strength of their teamwork and attitude and not a single player," he said. "If we concentrate too much on Gareth Bale, we will disregard their real strength of teamwork".

Estili, 55, believes Group B – which also contains England and the U.S. – is the toughest of all eight groups for his side because Wales were seeded lower than they should have been due to qualifying late.

Due to the war in Ukraine, Rob Page's men were only able to qualify in June – two months after the draw for the tournament was made, and as a result the group does not include a seed 4 team.

"Had Wales qualified ahead of the draw, they would be placed in seed two. So, we have a seed one team, and two seed two teams as well as ourselves, a seed three team," he said.

Estili, who is Iran's general manager and scored in 'Team Melli's' famous 2-1 victory over the U.S. at the 1998 World Cup in France, is expecting matches against the two British sides to be very tough.

"Wales play very much a physical and English style of football. Our biggest strength against an opponent like England or Wales is our own players' motivation, determined to give a good account of themselves and as a whole our Team Melli on the world stage.

"We have shown in the past that we can elevate our performance against much tougher opponents. Hopefully we can rise to the occasion this time around".

The Iranian squad includes a dozen footballers now playing in Europe including in the Premier League (Saman Ghodds – Brentford) and the Championship (Allahyar Sayyadmanesh – Hull City) as well as the Bundesliga (Sardar Azmoun – Bayer Leverkusen) and the Primeira Liga (Mehdi Taremi – FC Porto).

But the team was recently thrown into chaos when manager Dragan Skocic was sacked, only to be re-instated six days later amid reports of splits among players.

Estili said the psychological pressure on the players in their match against the U.S. will be huge due to the hatred between the countries at the political level, but believes that times have moved on.

"This match carries less of sensitivity than the one 24 years ago as circumstances have changed. The world around us has changed. We will go to Qatar for football and are not concerned about politics.

"We play the United States in our last group match and hope to be in a position that a repeated win against them will propel us to the knockout stages for the first time ever".

Incredibly, England and Iran have never met at senior level and Estili said the fixture in Qatar will be first time his country have played against a "football world power" in an opening World Cup match – since losing 3-0 to The Netherlands in 1978.

"The Premier League and its exciting brand of football is followed with intense passion by our fans. There are English fan clubs in Iran who follow every step of those clubs and their players. The football passion in Iran is unrivalled and surpasses that of England, if you can believe it. So, you can imagine what it means for us to play England, at the senior level, for the first time ever and, on all occasions, our first game of a World Cup!"

U.S., Europe have no option but to accept JCPOA: assistant

From Page 1 ▶ "This is why we are witnessing successes in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic in recent months," he added.

He continued, "The foreign policy of the Raisi administration uses all the capabilities of foreign relations, adopts a balanced policy, and communicates with all countries within the framework of the government's policies and interests."

Rezaei referred to the conspiracies of the enemies against the Iranian government since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, and said, "70 percent of society is unaware of the plots of the enemies and the forces of arrogance in the early years of the victory of the revolution, from the bombing of the office of the Islamic Republic Party to the explosion of the Prime Minister's office that led to the martyrdom of Ayatollah Beheshti, Rajai, Bahonar and many government officials who were servants of the Islamic Revolution."

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. and the U.S. submitted its response on Wednesday.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the country on Wednesday afternoon received the US's response to Tehran's proposals aimed at resolving remaining issues during the sanctions removal talks from the EU's coordinator of the Vienna negotiations.

Kanaani added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has started carefully reviewing the US side's response. The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said the Islamic Republic of Iran will give its response to the EU coordinator after fully studying Washington's response.

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.

Borrell has described the Iranian response 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.

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

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

Iran is currently studying the U.S. response and is expected to give its answer in the coming weeks. Iran has refrained from setting deadlines for its answer.

said the ministry has taken immediate action following the release of stories and footage purportedly of stranded migrants at the sea near the Greek waters and the unconfirmed reports that a number of them had Iranian nationality, Tasnim reported.

Over the past few days, a footage has been released purportedly showing Iranian migrants stranded at sea off the Greek coast. The migrants, estimated to be more than 50, gave a distress call, according to the footage.

The statement said the Foreign Ministry is seriously pursuing the case through the Iranian ambassadors to Athens and Rome and in contact with the authorities in charge in those countries.

Moreover, the head of the Foreign Ministry's department of consular and judicial supports has given the chargé d'affaires of Greece in Tehran a call, voiced Iran's great concern about the issue, and called for more serious cooperation from the Greek coast guards and other relevant authorities to deal with the case and provide relief for those migrants.

Allahyar Sayyadmanesh undergoes surgery

TEHRAN – Iran international winger Allahyar Sayyadmanesh underwent surgery in London.

He suffered a torn hamstring in the match against Burnley 10 days ago and underwent surgery earlier this week.

Allahyar is likely to be sidelined for around three months putting his hopes of appearing at this winter's World Cup in Qatar in serious jeopardy.

Hull City coach Shota Arveladze had said the player would be sidelined for five or six weeks.

Sepahan held by Gol Gohar, Persepolis beat Aluminum

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team earned their first win in the 2022/23 Iran Professional League (IPL) season on Friday.

The Reds defeated Aluminum 1-0 in Arak courtesy of Milad Sarlak's first-half goal.

In Sirjan, Gol Gohar came from two goals down to equalize with Sepahan.

Foolad defeated Tractor 3-2 in Ahvaz and Sanat Naft edged past Havadar 1-0 in Tehran.

Sepahan remain top of the table with seven points, one point above Esteghlal.

Iran fall short against Japan at 2022 AVC Cup for Women

TEHRAN – Iran were defeated against Japan 3-1 win (25-23, 25-21, 26-28, 25-16) in quarterfinals of the 2022 AVC Cup for Women on Saturday.

Yuki Nishikawa and Miyuki Tanaka powered the team with double-digit scores (18 points and 13 points respectively) during the quarterfinals encounter on Saturday evening at the PhilSports Arena to mark Japan's fourth consecutive win in the competition.

"Iran played well in offense today and we needed to adjust our defense system to play against them," said Japan head coach Akira Koshiya.

Japan relied on Nishikawa and Tanaka from the wings. They ran their offense cohesively, effectively utilizing their passing unit. With the taller lineup in front of them, Japan also needed to find solutions against the opponents' block.

The Japanese side stuck to their system, playing strategically from the service line while covering the backcourt well, to solidify their stake to victory in four sets.

Japan will face Vietnam in the semifinals, set as the main event on Sunday. Iran will face Chinese Taipei in an earlier match at 10:00 local time for the 5th-8th semifinals bracket.

Iran following nationals reportedly stranded off Greek coast

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry has reacted to unconfirmed reports of Iranian migrants being stranded at sea off the coast of Greece.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran said it has contacted Greece and Italy to get information about unconfirmed reports that a group of Iranian migrants have been stranded at sea near the Greek waters, according to Tasnim.

In a statement on Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's public relations department

Iran, Africa open new chapter in relations

TEHRAN – After holding several high-level meetings with African leaders, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian left Zanzibar for Tehran on Saturday.

The five-day tour of Africa included visits to Mali, Tanzania, and Zanzibar. Amir Abdollahian headed for the Republic of Mali at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation and arrived at the capital Bamako's airport on Monday night, local time.

Iran's relations with African countries have received a boost under President Ebrahim Raisi, who called for broadening Iran's relations with non-Western countries. In addition to the Raisi administration, the Iranian Parliament paid attention to Africa as well.

In late May, Members of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee held a meeting with fifteen African ambassadors to Iran. The meeting was held on the occasion of Africa Day on May 25.

In this meeting, the Iranian lawmakers and African

ambassadors discussed in detail the state of relations between Iran and Africa. Abbas Golrou, the chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee who attended the meeting, said "the obstacles of Iran-Africa cooperation, priorities from the perspective of Africans, and strategies for developing cooperation were discussed" in the meeting.

The lawmakers expressed regret at the low level of trade between Iran and Africa. "The conditions of relations between Iran and African countries are not favorable, good and acceptable. One thousand billion dollars is the volume of African trade, while Iran's share is one-thousandth, i.e., less than one billion dollars, and this is not acceptable," Golrou said.

The MP said, "All the ambassadors welcomed the development of Africa's economic relations with Iran and stressed the need for it, and expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of sufficient knowledge of each other's markets. They emphasized that the most important factor in

the low level of communication is the lack of knowledge we have about each other."

To further improve trade and economic cooperation, Amir Abdollahian took with him an economic delegation from both the public and private sectors. In Mali, the Iranian foreign minister, together with his Malian counterpart, attended a joint meeting of Iranian and Malian businesspeople. In this meeting, Amir Abdollahian underlined the need to expand interactions between business and trade activists of the two countries. He said the Iranian Foreign Ministry is ready to facilitate contacts and cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Mali.

Also, the foreign ministers of Iran and Mali signed a memorandum of understanding for the first joint commission for comprehensive cooperation. During Amir Abdollahian's stint in Mali, the first meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between Iran and Mali was held and it was decided to hold the next meeting in Tehran.

In Tanzania, Amir Abdollahian

Iran's 5-month non-oil exports increase 21%

From page 1 ▶ In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 58 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$42.589 billion with its trade partners in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, up about 23 percent in terms of value.

Iran's top export destinations during this period were China, Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, and India, according to Moghadasi.

Liquid propane, methanol, liquefied natural gas, polyethylene, iron, and steel ingots were among the top exported items in the said five months.

The country's top five sources of imports during these five months were the UAE, China, Turkey, India, and Russia.

As previously announced by Moghadasi, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to the previous year.

Moghadasi put the country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of



non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for the preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers, and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official has underlined.

SEO collaborating with Industry Ministry to facilitate offering cars at IME



TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said his organization is collaborating with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry to facilitate the sale of Iranian-made cars at the country's merchandise exchange.

"We are trying to continue our positive interaction and cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade to make the necessary preparations for introducing more cars into Iran Merchandise Exchange (IME)," Majid Eshqi told IRNA on Saturday.

"Our goal is not only to sale cars in the merchandise exchange, but also to activate the capacities of the capital market to finance the country's automobile industry, and there are tools

in the capital market like bonds and certificates of deposit ready to be used in this regard," he added.

The official noted that over the past few days SEO has had positive negotiations with the country's automobile manufacturers for the allocation of resources for the development of new platforms and the quality improvement of current products.

As IRNA reported, after the approval of the Stock Exchange Supreme Council regarding the sale of cars at IME, 350 Fidelity and 250 Dignity vehicles belonging to Bahman Motor Group were offered at the mentioned exchange on August 17.

Following the mentioned offering, last week, Eshqi announced the offering of some Iran Khodro (IKCO) vehicles at the merchandise exchange, saying: "We were facing obstacles for the offering of cars in the stock exchange and now the problems have been resolved and we managed to offer some cars in this market and two products of Iran Khodro will soon enter the merchandise exchange board."

Later, IME announced in a statement that 500 HAIMA vehicles manufactured by IKCO would be offered at IME on August 28 as the first round of IKCO offerings in the merchandise exchange.

Transit of goods via Iran rises 25% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Iran increased 25 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Alireza Moghadasi said that six million tons of commodities have been transited via the country in the five-month period.

After seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved, the spokesman of IRICA has previously noted.



The 68-percent growth in transit last year and the 39-percent rise in the first two months of this year promise to reach 15 million tons of goods passing through Iran in the current year, which has been unprecedented in the entire history of the country, Ruhollah Latifi added.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current

government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic

location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

TEDPIX gains 7,600 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 7,671 points to 1.45 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 6.766 billion securities worth 48.112 trillion rials (about \$171.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 7,756 points and the second market's index gained 9,014 points.

TEDPIX fell 9,004 points (0.62 percent) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, 32.361 billion securities worth 219.753 trillion rials (about \$784.83 million) were traded through 1.741 deals at the TSE in the

past week.

The number and value of traded securities dropped 20.4 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively, while the number of deals fell 7.18 percent in the past week from the preceding week.

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

Senior stock market analyst, Ashkan Zoudfekr, believes government must support the stock

market against other parallel competitors like money and property markets.

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

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

Iran, Nigeria ink MOU to expand energy cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Nigeria have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in various energy fields, Shana reported.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources of Nigeria Timipre Sylva in Tehran on Saturday.

Sylva who visited Tehran on top of a high-ranking delegation was received by Oji at the place of the Oil Ministry to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Exporting technical and engineering services to Nigeria, collaborating with Nigerian companies for manufacturing dual-fuel cars, using Nigeria's capabilities in the field of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), developing Nigeria's oil and gas fields and the reconstruction and renovation of Nigerian refineries



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji (R) and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources of Nigeria Timipre Sylva pose with signed MOU documents in Tehran on Saturday.

are among the fields of cooperation covered in the MOU.

Speaking at the meeting with Sylva, Oji referred to the potentials of Iran and Nigeria in the energy sector and expressed hope that signing

such MOUs would pave the way for increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Mentioning the negotiations held between Iran and Nigeria on the sidelines of the recent Gas Exporting

Countries Forum (GECF)'s summit, Oji said Iran and Nigeria are both members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), OPEC+, and the GECF, which makes the energy cooperation between the two sides easily possible.

Iran and Nigeria have large reserves of oil and gas and Nigeria is the sixth exporter of LNG in the world, the minister stressed.

The Nigerian minister for his part emphasized that Iran and Nigeria have had a lot of bilateral cooperation under the framework of OPEC, JECF, and OPEC+ alliance, saying: "Today, a good memorandum was signed between the two countries for the transfer of technology and engineering services from Iran to Nigeria, development of Nigeria's oil and gas fields and manufacturing of dual-fuel cars in Nigeria."

Annual petchem export expected to hit \$18b by next March

TEHRAN- Iran's annual export of petrochemicals is expected to reach \$18 billion in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2023), the managing director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced.

Morteza Shahmirzaei said that currently, the petrochemical sector has the highest added value in the oil industry chain.

The official further put the country's annual petrochemical production capacity at 90 million tons.

"Some products were not considered in the previous periods and we were faced with their import at the cost of five billion dollars", he said, adding, "The products of the propylene chain are of special importance and include 70 percent of the total petrochemical imports. To reduce the dependency, the petrochemical company has focused on the development of value chain projects."

He went on to say that supply of propylene is important for the supply of feed for this chain, and currently the production capacity of propylene is one million tons per year, and the country's need is more than this amount.

The official explained that 95 percent of propylene produced in the country is used for the production of polypropylene and five percent is used in other sectors. On a global scale last year, 68 percent was in polypropylene and 32 percent in other sectors, so Iran's consumption pattern is

different from the world's pattern.

In the petrochemical industry's 10-year strategic outlook plan, 35 projects with a nominal capacity of 13 million tons per year for the production of propylene are predicted, which will increase the production capacity of propylene to 14 million tons, of which 11 million tons will be consumed in polypropylene and three million tons in other sectors, Shahmirzaei announced.

Back in mid-May, the official had said that Iran exported petrochemical products valued at more than \$15 billion in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

He said that of the mentioned \$15 billion petchem revenues, over \$12.5 billion was injected into the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

The NPC's managing director further stressed that petrochemical industry is a value and job-creating industry, which has no risk.

The official said that 69 production units (including three service units which provide services such as water, electricity, and steam for the production units) are now active in the



petrochemical industry of Iran, which play some significant role in bringing foreign currency for the country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shahmirzaei stressed that domestic production should be realized in all sectors of the petrochemical industry.

A small part is still remained, so that this target will be achieved, he added.

Petrochemical Research and Technology Company and Research Institute of Petroleum Industry in addition to the other related institutes and centers are taking all efforts in this due, the official added.

He mentioned West Eslam-Abad petrochemical project as one of the projects that all of its parts will be domestically produced.

"We should apply five technical knowledge for this project, which require some special preciseness and effort", Shahmirzaei noted.

74,000 business licenses issued in 5 months

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin said on Friday that his ministry has issued 74,000 business licenses for applicants since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), IRIB reported.

"So far, 240,000 license applications have been registered in the national license portal, and licenses have been issued for 74,000 applicants," Fatemi-Amin said.

The minister referred to some of the government's measures to promote domestic production including creating economic stability, creating a national licensing portal, removing some production barriers, and making the country's economic information available to the people, saying that these measures have resulted in positive outcomes despite the sanctions and difficult global economic conditions.

ICCIMA stresses need for establishing railway regulatory body



TEHRAN – During a meeting of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Transport and Logistics Committee on Saturday, the members of the committee stressed the need for establishing a regulatory body in the country's railway industry, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The attendees of the mentioned meeting emphasized that necessary provisions should be made in the Seventh Five-year National Development Plan for the operation of a regulatory body in the railway industry and the private sector should also be able to

have a stronger role in the industry.

Speaking at the meeting, Ali Hosseini, the head of the ICCIMA Transport and Logistics Committee enumerated some of the challenges and problems of the country's transportation industry and said: "The transportation industry is one of the industries that operate in direct connection with all economic sectors and the conditions governing it have significant effects on the market. Therefore, paying attention to the needs of this industry should be the priority in defining the country's economic and legislative programs."

He further pointed to some of the issues of the railway industry, saying: "There is not enough productivity in this industry. We have problems in railway management and our approach in this field is uneconomical. Due to the low speed of rail transportation and the lack of efficiency, a regulatory body should be established. If we want to reach the transit goals of 30 to 50 million tons per year, the rail industry must be developed."

DOJ reveals redacted affidavit justifying Trump Mar-a-Lago raid

The Justice Department on Friday revealed a heavily redacted copy of the affidavit used to obtain a search warrant for former President Donald Trump's home Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI had probable cause to believe that records containing classified national defense information would be found at the Palm Beach, Florida, residence, according to an agent who wrote the 32-page affidavit.

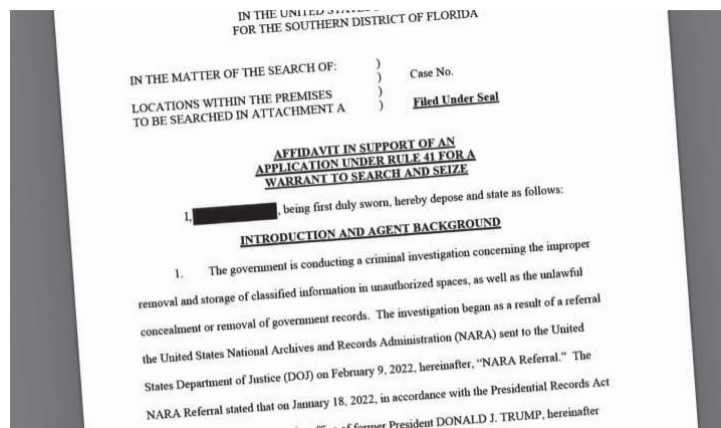
"There is also probable cause to believe that evidence of obstruction will be found" at Trump's home, read an unredacted portion of the affidavit.

A federal judge had ordered the key document's release over the objections of the DOJ, which argued it contains highly sensitive facts about the ongoing criminal investigation into Trump. U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart accepted the DOJ's proposed redactions to the affidavit one day before it was made public.

"The government is conducting a criminal investigation concerning the improper removal and storage of classified information in unauthorized spaces, as well as the unlawful concealment and removal of government records," the FBI agent, whose name was blacked out, wrote in the affidavit's first line.

The agent then wrote that the probe began because of a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration in February, after NARA received 15 boxes of records from Trump's residence in Florida. By law, presidential records must be turned over to the National Archives when a president departs office.

The FBI found that in those boxes were documents that bore classification markings, and included records relating to national defense information, which had been stored at Mar-a-Lago in an unsecured location.



The 15 boxes included 184 specific documents marked classified, 67 of which were marked "confidential," 92 marked "secret" and 25 documents marked "top secret," according to the affidavit.

"Based upon this investigation, I do not believe that any spaces within the PREMISES have been authorized for the storage of classified information at least since the end of FPOTUS's Presidential Administration on January 20, 2021," the agent wrote in the affidavit.

Of the 32 pages of the affidavit, 21 pages are almost totally or significantly blacked out.

The search warrant itself was revealed voluntarily by the DOJ less than a week after the Aug. 8 raid. The warrant indicated that FBI agents were looking for materials showing violations of laws against obstruction of justice and the removal of official records, as well as the U.S. Espionage Act.

The FBI took at least 20 boxes of items in the August raid, including numerous sets of highly classified documents, according to a property receipt that was also made public by the DOJ.

In a social media post after the redacted affidavit was released, Trump accused the FBI and DOJ of "public relations subterfuge" by the fact that the word "Nuclear" did not appear in the document — though he also noted that it was "heavily redacted!!!" The affidavit did not detail the specific content of documents it expected to find.

Trump also lashed out at Reinhart, arguing that he should have recused himself from this matter because he had previously removed himself from another case involving the former president. The reason for that recusal was not clear, news outlets reported, but Trump claimed it was "based on his animosity and

hatred of your favorite President, me."

The government argued last week against releasing the affidavit, even in a redacted form.

"The redactions necessary to mitigate harms to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining unsealed text devoid of meaningful content," read a court filing from Jay Bratt, head of the counterintelligence and export control section of the DOJ's National Security Division.

Bratt also argued that the affidavit "would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation" if disclosed.

Reinhart disagreed, and ordered the government to propose redactions to U.S. District Court in West Palm Beach, Florida, by Thursday. The judge accepted the DOJ's redactions later that day.

The government said last week that the Mar-a-Lago raid is part of a probe that "implicates national security" and is still in its "early stages."

Trump, who first revealed the FBI's search of his Florida residence, has cast himself as the victim of a political attack by the Biden administration that was carried out against the presumptive Republican front-runner in the 2024 presidential race.

The former president on Monday sued the government, asking a federal judge to block the DOJ from poring over the documents seized from Mar-a-Lago until a court-appointed third party reviews them.

"The political Hacks and Thugs had no right under the Presidential Records Act to storm Mar-a-Lago and steal everything in sight, including Passports and privileged documents," Trump said in a social media post earlier Friday morning.

(Source: CNBC)

A federal judge had ordered the key document's release over the objections of the DOJ, which argued it contains highly sensitive facts about the ongoing criminal investigation into Trump.

Palestinians decry U.S. inaction over Israeli raids

From page 1 ▶ Earlier this week, the U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said "we continue to seek additional information from our Israeli partners." When asked why the U.S. would not forthrightly condemn Israel's actions, Price said, "the Israelis have told us that they have information in their possession" that would supposedly justify taking action in (Washington's eyes) against the groups.

During a webinar, Khaled Quzman, the director of Defense for Children International, Palestine said "in the past, they used to work to silence us, and now they are working to eliminate us, eliminate our work and even the organization."

Quzman was summoned by Israeli regime forces, for an interview following the raids and says the person who contacted him also intimidated him by making it clear that he knew detailed information about Quzman's family members.

Speaking during the same conference, Shawan Jabarin, the director of al-Haq said Israel has not "faced ever, ever any real accountability," Jabarin has also received what he described as a phone call of a threatening nature from the regime, that summoned him to a nearby military base but he refused to comply.

During a separate online conference, Susan Power a senior member of al-Haq said: "we're looking at potential imprisonment of people on secret evidence and confidential files, and this lack of due process and this reliance on secret evidence goes all the way up [the Israeli regime ranks]."

According to Western media sources, a classified report by the U.S. intelligence agency the CIA shows an inability in finding any evidence to support Israel's move to label the NGOs as "terrorist organizations".

This week, 24 UN-appointed independent human rights experts condemned Israel's escalating attacks against Palestinian civil society in the occupied West Bank, describing it as "illegal and unacceptable".

The experts encouraged UN Member States to use international law to end the abuses saying "these actions amount to severe suppression of human rights defenders and are illegal and unacceptable,"

The Israeli characterization of the organizations as "terrorist" and "unlawful" have also been condemned by the UN experts who pointed out these "designations and declarations are illegitimate and unjustifiable and no concrete and credible evidence substantiating Israel's allegations has ever been provided,"

They said information presented by the Israeli regime to justify its decision to blacklist human rights groups as terror organizations had failed to convince donor governments and international organizations.



"Once again, it is clear that statements condemning and regretting Israel's unlawful measures are not sufficient — it is time that words are followed by swift and determined action by the international community to put diplomatic pressure on Israel to restore the rule of law, justice, and human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory," the experts added.

Rights groups have also roundly condemned the Israeli regime's latest inhumane act against the Palestinians. International rights group Human Rights Watch joined more than 150 other similar organizations to issue a joint statement that read "these raids and closures represent the latest escalation in Israel's widespread campaign aiming to silence and discredit any Palestinian individual or organization that dares to seek accountability for Israel's grave human rights violation".

The groups noted that the regime's raids in the occupied territories represent the latest escalation in Israel's widespread campaign aiming to silence and discredit any Palestinian individual or organization that dares to seek accountability for Israel's grave human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The rights groups also highlight the "persecution of organizations and persons, by depriving them of fundamental rights and freedoms, because they oppose apartheid" is a method used by Israel, amounting to acts of apartheid prosecutable under the Rome Statute, to maintain its domination and oppression over the Palestinian people.

The occupying regime claims the organizations are front groups for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a political party with an anti-occupation resistance arm.

All seven organizations — al-Haq, the Bisan Center for Research & Development, Addameer, Defense for Children International, Palestine, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Union of Health Work Committees, saw their offices raided by Israeli regime forces and forced to shut down after being issued with orders that declared the groups unlawful to operate.

Heavily armed Israeli troops seized equipment and in some cases, files from the raided offices. Defense for Children International-Palestine and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees say that Israeli troops seized files containing sensitive information regarding child clients and women. The targeted groups have been working in Palestine for decades and received international funding to support their work.

That includes providing legal representation to Palestinians held without charge or trial by Israel, international human rights advocacy, providing employment and social services to Palestinian women and farmers, providing health care to rural communities, promoting women's and workers' rights, and representing children who are tried in Israeli military courts against international law.

According to the UN experts, the regime interrogated the directors of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, al-Haq, and Defense for Children-Palestine, and three of the seven organizations shut down. They expressed particular concern over "threats" made by the regime against the organizations, including a public statement concerning al-Haq's director.

The independent UN experts also called for accountability, urging the EU, the five permanent Security Council members, and all UN Member States to take concrete measures to protect the Palestinian organizations and staff whose offices were raided and closed.

When it comes to accountability, however, the regime has always found a haven in first and foremost the United States then the United Kingdom and others to expand its human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. With Washington keeping silent over the matter, effectively backing Israel, the White House will no doubt provide the regime with opportunity to further trample on international law in its attempts to stop information, that could indict top Israeli officials of war crimes, from being sent to The Hague.

Despite the fact that the U.S. has been unable to support or condemn the designation of the groups nor has Washington entered the groups on its shaky terror list. Many countries, including allies of Israel, have rejected the terror designation as unfounded.

Because the international community is concurring with the organizations, they have been subjected to regular harassment and smear campaigns by Israel and its proxies for years, including military raids and the arrest and detention of their staff, in a bid to hinder their work and give Israel the green light to carry on its ethnic cleansing campaign.

Ashraf Ghani admits blame for trusting U.S.

Former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani has accepted "shared" responsibility for the fall of the country into Taliban hands, blaming himself for trusting the U.S. which negotiated a deal with the militant group that brought about his ouster, Press TV reported.

"One has to take responsibility for trusting a partner that then trampled our sovereignty and imposed the release of 5,000 [Taliban] prisoners, among them, the largest drug dealers in history in the region," Ghani said in an interview with state-financed U.S. broadcaster, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

"Responsibility is shared, and where I take responsibility for is to have trusted our key partner that signed our withdrawal agreement -- and for one full year -- its (U.S.) forces were not attacked by the Taliban, but our forces paid the highest price," he further emphasized, referring to Washington's deal with the militant group not to attack U.S. and allied occupation forces across Afghanistan while leaving them free to wage terror attacks against Afghan government forces and civilians.

The deal — known as the Doha agreement signed between the administration of former U.S. president Donald Trump and the Taliban — did not involve the official Afghan government, provided a date for total withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan and forced the Washington-sponsored Ghani administration to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners.

Ghani further slammed the U.S.-Taliban deal, insisting that Washington's "assumptions regarding the Taliban were highly flawed" and "based on wishful thinking." He also promised that the preparation and implementation of the pact "will go down in the history as one of the worst agreements ever concluded."

"The U.S. propped up the Taliban... The Trump administration — without the Trump administration's role, the Taliban would not be here today," the ex-president of Afghanistan then underlined.

Ghani went on to blast Washington for establishing what he described as "false assurance systems," saying, "We were assured that a cease-fire would take place and political negotiations regarding the future government will be an indispensable part of the agreement, which they were not."

He also blamed successive U.S. administrations and their agents and contractors in Afghanistan for the widespread and growing corruption across his impoverished Asian nation.

"Where did corruption start from?" he asked. "It started with a — with buying of the warlords by the Bush administration. The scale of corruption in Afghanistan is a confluence between your new barons, which



represent Beltway contractors, and military industrial contractors, and Afghan new and old warlords."

"My agenda was to deal with this corruption and to contain it," he also claimed, describing it as "a cancer."

"But, simultaneously, you need to see our sacrifices. We were losing between 200 and 400 soldiers and officers a day," Ghani noted. "A time comes when even steel has a snapping point, and that's the point it came, because the cities and the provinces where a lot of fighting took place could not receive sustained support."

The former Afghan leader further accused Washington and the U.S.-led NATO military alliance of not sticking to their pledged withdrawal date of 2024, suggesting that their hasty pullout contributed to his government's inability to better plan for security measures.

"We need to understand, 20 years of engagement had been building systems based on the premises of 2024 departure," he pointed out. "There was an agreed date with NATO and with the international community. It was 2024."

"Key was predictability," Ghani insisted. "Had the U.S. decided to tell us in the — on January 2019 that it will withdraw by 2021, we would have been able to plan."

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, despite the fact that no Afghan national was involved in the attacks. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been killed as a result of the U.S. war of aggression on the country.

American forces had occupied the country for about two decades under the pretext of the so-called "War on terror." But as the U.S. forces left Afghanistan, the Taliban stormed into the capital Kabul in August last year, weakened by continued foreign occupation.

The Taliban took over the capital on August 8, 2021, and declared that the war in Afghanistan was over. The militants entered the presidential palace after Ghani fled the country.

The U.S. was forced to shut down its huge embassy in Kabul and evacuate diplomats and staff by helicopters.

United States to appoint first Arctic ambassador

The United States is planning to appoint an ambassador for the Arctic, amid increased Russian military activity in the region, BBC reported on Saturday.

The ambassador-at-large will be put in place to advance U.S. policy in the northern polar region, a Department of State spokesman said.

On Friday, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg warned of the threat posed by Russia in the northern polar regions.

He also voiced concern about China's reach into the Arctic.

The new U.S. ambassador will engage with the seven other Arctic nations — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia — as well as indigenous groups and other stakeholders, said State Department spokesman Vedant Patel.

Peace and stability in the region are of "critical strategic importance" to the U.S. and a priority for Secretary of State Antony Blinken, he added.

Blinken will soon name the ambassador, whose appointment is subject to Senate approval.

The announcement comes as Russia steps up its presence near the North Pole, while China has been building Arctic research stations.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited

the Canadian Arctic on Friday, where he said Russia's capabilities in the North are a strategic challenge for the military alliance.

He said the challenges include the reopening of "hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites" and Russia's use of the high north "as a testbed for the most advanced weapons including hypersonic missiles."

Stoltenberg also expressed concern about China's reach into the Arctic for shipping and resources exploration.

"Beijing and Moscow have also pledged to intensify practical operation in the Arctic. This forms part of the deepening strategic partnership that challenges our values and our interests," he said.

He also outlined how climate change is making the high north more important, because melting ice is making the area more accessible.

Lisa Murkowski, a Republican Senator for Alaska, welcomed the appointment of an Arctic Ambassador. She said the U.S. had been the only Arctic nation without dedicated diplomatic representation for the region at ambassador level.

The new ambassador will replace the previous U.S. position of Arctic Coordinator, held by career diplomat Jim DeHart.

Tourism of Rey has high potential for growth: minister



TEHRAN—The city of Rey in the southeast of Tehran holds the potential to become one of the country's tourism hubs, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami has said.

Zarghami made the remarks during a visit to the historical sites and tourist attractions of the city on Thursday, CHTN reported.

In the rich history and cultural heritage of the city, one can see the old civilization of the country, the minister added.

"The city of Rey is the heart and soul of Iranians. Their religious roots are here, so its capabilities should be acknowledged," he noted.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During

the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Islamic writers described it as a city of extraordinary beauty, built largely of fired brick and brilliantly ornamented with blue faience (glazed earthenware). It continued to be an important city and was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuks, but in the 12th century, it was weakened by the fierce quarrels of rival religious sects. In 1220, the city was almost entirely destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

Gilan province registers 17 million overnight stays



TEHRAN—The northern Gilan province has recorded some 17 million overnight stays, mainly by domestic travelers, in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), a provincial official announced.

Some 17 million overnight stays have been recorded for the first five months of the year at authorized accommodation centers such as hotels, traditional lodging houses, eco-lodge units, apartment hotels, and guest houses, the provincial tourism chief said on Saturday.

The figure jumped 175 percent in comparison to the same period last year, adding the majority of stays have been made in the eco-lodge units, Vali Jahani said.

Gilan welcomed 25 million travelers during the mentioned period, the official stated.

The lush green province is known for its tourist attractions and warm-hearted and hospitable people. The people of Gilan from different ethnic groups, including Gilak, Talesh, and Tat, have come together and formed a very rich and diverse culture and customs.

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

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

Tourism projects worth \$8.7m inaugurated in Hormozgan

TEHRAN—On Friday, a total of 15 tourism-related projects worth 2.6 trillion rials (\$8.7 million) were inaugurated across Hormozgan province via video conference.

The projects include tourism complexes, accommodation centers, and sea tourism centers, which were carried out in collaboration with the private sector, the provincial tourism chief Sohrab Banavand said.

They are estimated to generate over 160 job opportunities, the official added.

Such projects would lead to economic prosperity in the region, he noted.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations



in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists through its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and hospitable people.

Archaeologists have excavated 5,000-year-old home in heart of Iran



From page 1 ▶ In addition, Danainia reminded efforts underway to register the site in the UNESCO World Heritage list, saying "For the global registration of these ancient hills, its limits should be modified..."

Experts believe that Sialk is a treasure trove of information about diverse subjects such as palaeobotany, palaeozoology, palaeoanatomy, diet, climate change and ancient metallurgy.

In 2019, the Louvre museum hosted an international conference on Tappeh Sialk ("Sialk hills"), which was attended by archaeologists from Germany, England, France and

Iran. According to Louvre, the event was aimed to cast a new light on the ancient site some 80 years after its first excavation to lay an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of research and projects, as well as current issues of preservation and enhancement of the site.

According to the Louvre, the oldest levels document the occupation of the Iranian plateau from the Neolithic to the Cholutic over more than two millennia. Then, around 3000 BC, the site is integrated into the vast cultural area called Proto-Elamite, during which specific writing appears.

Much later, in the Iron Age, the local culture, represented by beautifully painted pottery, is best known through the excavation of necropolises. This culture, which appeared new in the region, has long been identified with the Medes and fueled the debate over the arrival of new populations speaking Iranian languages from which comes modern Persian.

Several excavation projects at the site have so far been conducted, beginning with a 1933 French Louvre delegation led by Roman Ghirshman; capping with a most recent project in 2009, which was led by Hassan

Fazeli-Nashli, a faculty member of the Archaeology Department, University of Tehran.

When it comes to tourism, travellers regularly opt to pass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd because this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir is one of Iran's most alluring destinations. Kashan not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders, an atmospheric-covered bazaar, and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran's best traditional hotels.

Bazeh Hur: reminiscent of Sassanid architecture in northeast Iran

TEHRAN—A destination for cultural travelers and researchers, Bazeh Hur is reminiscent of pure Sassanid architecture in northeast Iran.

The monument is in the form of Chahar-Taq, which is an ancient square-shaped brick room surmounted by a domed roof.

Many experts believe it is an exemplar of fine architecture in the time of Sassanids. "Chahar-Taq (Chahartaq) is a clear example of architectural knowledge and construction technology in the Sassanid period, tourism official Ahmad Danaeinia said earlier this month.

Located 60 km from Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province, Bazeh Hur resembles a typical Sassanid fire temple, but there has been no trace of a fire altar or fire pedestal in the building.

According to sources, Bazeh Hur had been studied by architect/archaeologist Ernst Hertzfeld (1879–1948) and art historian/archaeologist Andre Godard (1881–1965) who wrote articles about the monument.

As mentioned by experts, the building of Bazeh Hur has maintained its consistency due to a robust foundation. In olden times, caravans



from south Khorasan, Sistan-and-Baluchestan, and Kerman passed by this building before they reached Mashhad.

In fact, this architectural arrangement turned into the most typical form of Sassanid religious architecture, relating closely to the expansion and stabilization of Zoroastrianism under the Sassanid reign and continuing during the Islamic era thanks to its usage in religious and holy buildings such as mosques and tombs.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan,

which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"— to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Cultural heritage projects reopen after restoration

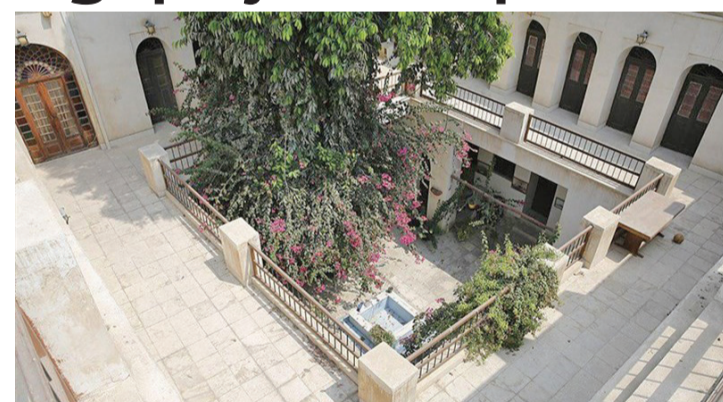
TEHRAN—Four cultural heritage projects were inaugurated in the southwestern Bushehr province on Friday.

The projects were inaugurated on the occasion of Government Week (August 24–30), the provincial tourism chief Esmail Sajadimanesh said.

The restoration and organization of the Jomeh historical mosque and Alavi Printing and Publishing Museum, which are located in the historical core of Bushehr, were parts of the projects, the official added.

Back in January, a province's tourism official said that the historical texture of Bushehr holds the potential to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

However, before developing a dossier, the historical texture needs



to be revived and restored properly, the official added.

Such places, which are usually significant tourist attractions as well, are meant to keep culture and customs alive around the world, he noted.

The historical texture of Bushehr is one of these unique areas and,

with the full cooperation of its residents and related organizations and departments, it would be qualified to be registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in the future, he explained.

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.

Restoration begins on public bathhouse in Zanjan

TEHRAN—Hammam-e Qinarjeh, a historical public bathhouse in Zanjan province, has undergone some rehabilitation work, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involves cleaning the inside of the structure, implementing a protective wall around the building, repairing the rooftop, and replacing the worn-out materials and flooring, Mohammadreza Mohammadpur explained on Saturday.

The historical structure was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2019.

Bathhouses or 'hammams' in Iran were not the only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor

and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities, but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the pastime.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180–242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor



caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman ruins nearby.

In January 2020, Zanjan was designated as a "world city of filigree" by the World Crafts Council after the WCC assessors visited various craft workshops, stores, exhibits, and bazaars of the city in a two-day itinerary in December 2019.

Thousands of development projects to come on stream

TEHRAN – More than 15,000 development projects will be inaugurated across the country by the end of Government Week (August 30).

Deputy Interior Minister Mehdi Jamalnejad said that more than 123 trillion rials (about \$400 million) have been invested in 15,830 projects which are going to come on stream nationwide, IRNA reported.

He went on to say that 2,501 other projects will start on the occasion of Government Week.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on August 24 that more than 4,500 rural development plans will be inaugurated on the occasion of Government Week.

A total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$103 million) for the eradication of deprivation in rural areas was approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023).



Comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental services.

There are around 40,000 villages

in the country with more than 20 households, for all of which comprehensive development plans have been approved every 10 years.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration

from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Since 2003, some 37,919 village administration offices have been established nationwide, offering services to about 95 percent of the country's rural population.

Deputy interior minister: More than 2,500 other projects will start across the country.

Climate change and challenges

Part 2

The temperature for the rest of the year was higher more than 0.8 degrees Celsius.

The Year 2021 with a temperature of 0.84 degrees Celsius higher than the average of the 20th century, was the sixth hottest consecutive year recorded on the planet.

The years 2013-2021 are all among the ten warmest years on record. The year 2021 was also the 45th consecutive year (since 1977) with global temperature, at least nominally, higher than the average of the 20th century.

Since 1880, the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere rise has been 0.08 degrees Celsius. The average increase since 1981 has been 0.18 degrees Celsius, more than twice this rate.

The rate of global warming is not equal to the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that will be released in the coming

decades. It depends on the emission in the atmosphere.

Today, our activities - burning fossil fuels and destroying forests - release about 11 billion metric tons of carbon (equivalent to just over 40 billion square meters) each year. It adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere (one metric ton of carbon dioxide fills a sphere with a diameter of about 10 meters).

Since carbon is too much to remove in natural processes, atmospheric carbon dioxide is increasing every year.

What is the difference between climate change and global warming?

The severity of the effects of climate change depends on the direction of future human activities. The release of more greenhouse gases will lead to extreme weather events and widespread destructive effects throughout the planet.

Technological advancement: a path towards knowledge-based economy

From page 1 ▶ During the past year, in order to realize a resilient and knowledge-based economy, a series of activities have been carried out to further develop the ecosystem of innovation and technology in the country, including attracting the participation of relevant ministries, approving and quickly implementing the law on the surge of knowledge-based production, expanding the activities of related to the law on the protection of knowledge-based companies and institutions.

Also, in order to provide technological solutions to national challenges, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and

154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

Moreover, in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem development, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established, as well as empowering and strengthening the export capacity of knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies.

In the field of elite turnover, the number of experts and entrepreneurs returning to Iran reaches 2,700, most of whom cooperate with universities and knowledge-based companies.

In the field of international cooperation,

the private sector is supported to create and launching overseas innovation and technology export houses, as well as 27 joint scientific-technology projects with the National Science Foundation of China, and 22 technological cooperation projects with Russian companies.

Law to support knowledge-based firms

With the aim of evaluating and supporting knowledge-based companies, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology put the implementation of the law on the protection of knowledge-based companies and institutions on the agenda, which resulted in the approval of 7,64 compa-



nies, product sales worth \$10 billion and employment of 350,000 people.

International cooperation

However, one of the other plans, which was carried out with the aim of scientific and technological development, was to move towards international science and technologies.

The joint cooperation program with the National Natural Science Foundation of China and supporting 27 joint scientific-technological projects, holding the sixth period of the Silk Road Scientific Fund and supporting 6 research projects and joint development.

The implementation of 22 technological cooperation projects of Iranian and Russian knowledge-based companies, the start of technological cooperation between the top 5 Iranian universities of technology and St. Pe-

tersburg Polytechnic University, and the establishment of the Iran-Russia Science and Technology Exchange Center in St. Petersburg are among others actions taken in this regard.

Development of strategic technologies

To support the development of strategic technologies in the country, 205 technology development plans were approved in accordance with the needs of society, and 23 need-oriented technological plans were defined in accordance with the declared priorities of the country's organizations and institutions.

Holding more than 28 technological events, specialized meetings, and webinars in strategic and specialized priority areas and opening 25 creative and innovation houses are other implementation results of this plan.

Supporting researches

Also, with the aim of supporting the researchers of university professors and graduate students, the plan on strategic technologies laboratory network was taken on agenda.

The results and achievements of this project are the membership of 129 laboratories by providing 5,000 devices and 29,000 laboratory tests to the network, the membership of 14,570 new members to the customer club of this network, and the support of 112 member laboratories.

Supporting 1,688 postdoctoral researchers per month, supporting the publication of 17 articles in top journals, supporting the participation of 46 people in prestigious study courses, and supporting the research of 75 postdoctoral researchers.

Law on knowledge-based production surge

One of the most important actions, with the cooperation of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament), has been the approval and implementation of the knowledge-based production surge law.

This law is approved and is being implemented with the aim of developing the business environment and supporting the growth and competitiveness of companies, as the country is taking steps towards a knowledge-based economy.

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

Second Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1401/103-16/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :
Leasing STM-4 Fiber Protected Xcontribution link between Bandar Abbas-Frankfurt for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
From **Saturday 27 Aug 2022 (1401/06/05) 09:00 a.m until Tuesday 30 Aug 2022 (1401/06/08) by 02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali -Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 41/807 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 11/706/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:30 a.m. on Saturday 01 Oct 2022 (1401/07/09)** at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Saturday 01 Oct 2022 (1401/07/09) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 02 Oct 2022 (1401/07/10) at 03:30 p.m** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.
Fore more information please see :
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and <http://iets.mporg.ir/> Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran spends \$477m on refugee education annually

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education has said.

Over 558,000 foreign national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, 474,000 of whom are Afghan children, ISNA quoted Gholamreza Karimi as saying on Wednesday.

Karimi said that there are currently about 137,000 undocumented Afghan students in the country, adding that their parents do not have valid residency documents, "but we have provided the conditions for enrolling them in schools."

A number of foreign nationals from neighboring countries came to Iran over the past four decades due to numerous regional crises and civil wars, he lamented.

ایران سالی ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای دانش آموزان اتباع خارجی هزینه می کند

ایران هر سال حدود ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای ۵۵۸ هزار دانش آموز اتباع خارجی در مدارس سراسر کشور هزینه می کند.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه ایسنا، غلامرضا کریمی رئیس مرکز امور بین الملل و مدارس خارج از کشور وزارت آموزش و پرورش گفت از این تعداد ۴۷۴ هزار نفر آنها اتباع افغانستانی هستند.

کریمی بابت این که در حال حاضر ۱۳۷ هزار دانش آموز غیرمجاز در کشور داریم گفت پدر و مادر این افراد مدارک اقامتی معتبر ندارند اما شرایط ثبت نام آنها را مدارس فراهم کردیم.

تعدادی از اتباع کشورهای همسایه به خاطر بحرانیهای متعدد منطقه ای و جنگهای داخلی در طول چهار دهه گذشته به ایران آمدند. پس از صدور فرمان مقام معظم رهبری در پایان سال ۱۳۹۳ هیچ کودک ایرانی و خارجی مستقر در ایران نباید از تحصیل محروم بماند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 27

New cases	976	Total deaths	143,684	Total recovered patients	7,277,658
New deaths	37	New hospitalized patients	296	Diagnostic tests conducted	53,743,896
Total cases	7,521,969	Patients in critical condition	1,171	Doses of vaccine injected	153,943,241



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AUGUST 27, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is deserted by friends and relatives will often find help and sympathy from strangers.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 13:06 Evening: 19:56 Dawn: 5:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 7 Taliq

The Persian style of writing naskh underwent gradual changes from the 11th century onward, and, in consequence of these and of an improvement in Persian pens, a script named taliq (lit. "hanging") containing elements from naskh, tawqi, and reqa was brought into use in the mid 3th century.

It was used for writing books and divans of poetry and was further refined in the 8th/14th century.

In taliq words and detached letters could be joined, which allowed for speedy writing and made it suitable for official correspondence. For the early phase its correct, but less used, name is shekasta-taliq ("broken," i.e., truncated and simplified taliq), and it was sometimes also called khatt-e tarassol (correspondence script). Modern writers have often given taliq or a simplified form of it the name tarassol.

After the adoption and spread of taliq the Ottoman Turks and the Egyptians introduced various changes to suit their tastes.

Their style of the script acquired the name divani because of its use in official business. It is still used in the Arab countries in two forms, jali "large-sized" and khafi "small-sized".

Taliq has a special importance as the basis of the two principal scripts now in use in Persia, namely nastaliq and shekasta-nastaliq. Modern Persian calligraphers have little knowledge of taliq and use it only occasionally.

Shekasta-taliq is said to have been invented, or at least defined, by Khaja Taj ad-Din Salmani Esfahani in the 15th century and to have been perfected by Khaja Abd al-Hayy Monshi Astarabadi later in the same century.

It is a script devised for rapid writing and therefore one in which intertwining is allowed, that is, unjoinable letters as well as two or more words are joined together.

The strokes, except in certain contexts, are predominantly round, and the pen is moved smoothly. The sizes of letters and words are not uniform, and if there is any consistency in the composition, it is very different from the neat symmetry to be seen in other scripts.

The shekasta-taliq script remained in fashion in Persian governmental and judicial offices for several centuries.

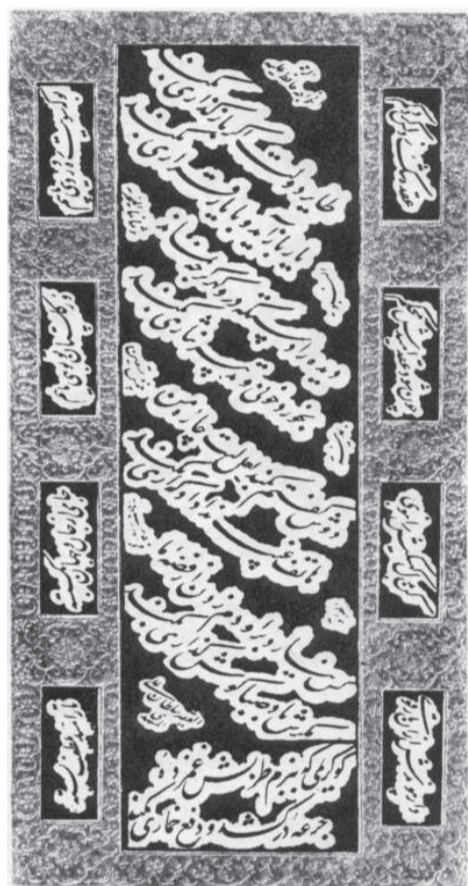
It was used for both documents and books and by both clerks and calligraphers. From the early 16th century onward it lost ground to the increasingly popular nastaliq and shekasta-nastaliq scripts, but it continued to be used until the 19th century, Mortaza Abd al-Rasuli, who wrote the inscriptions for the mausoleum of Omar Khayyam at Nishapur, wrote the Rubaiyat on the tilework in shekasta-taliq instead of thulth conventionally used on tiles.

Nastaliq

In the second half of the 14th century, another script called nastaliq (from naskh-taliq), which combined the well-balanced and nice-looking naskh script with taliq, developed on Persian ground.

This script did not have to be written slowly like naskh and was free from the shortcomings of taliq.

The regularity, firmness, and graceful flourishes of nastaliq make it very pleasing to the eye. In some surviving taliq manuscripts from the 13th century a gradual shift toward nastaliq is already apparent.



Nastaliq, "eastern" style, by Soltan-Ali Mashhadi, 1489-90.

Moreover, from the beginning of the 14th century, the Persian-style naskh, which was the ordinary medium of handwriting in that period, underwent changes that gradually brought it near to taliq and ultimately gave it some resemblance to nastaliq.

Although most authorities, including Soltan Ali Mashhadi, state that nastaliq was invented by Mir Ali Tabrizi (d. 1446-47), this does not appear to be correct. It can be taken for certain, however, that Mir Ali Tabrizi systematized and gave this script its definitive shape.

Two styles of writing nastaliq came into use in Persia. One, called the style of Jafar (Mirza Jafar Tabrizi Baysonghori, 15th century) or of Az'har (Az'har Tabrizi, 15th century, a pupil of Mirza Jafar Baysonghori at the Timurid court in Herat) earned much admiration and, after further refinement by Soltan-Ali Mashhadi, came into general use in Khorasan; for this reason it is known as Khorasani or eastern nastaliq.

The other was the style of Abd al-Rahman Kharazmi and his sons Abd al-Rahim and Abd al-Karim, who were calligraphers at the court of the sultan Yaqub Aq Qoyunlu in the late 15th century; it was used in the west and south of Persia and is known as western (gharbi) nastaliq.

In the western style, the letters and words have a sharp appearance. The elongations are level and unusually long, and the semicircles are also rather large; the letter and word dimensions are on the whole not well proportioned; and thus it does not have the consistency and grace of the eastern (sharqi) or Khorasani style.

Because of these imperfections the western style was eventually discarded in Persia, but traces of it can be recognized in the nastaliq of Afghan, Indian, and Pakistani calligraphers. The eastern style, as further perfected in the following centuries, is the nastaliq now in use in Persia.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Tehran to host 2nd Australian Film Week

TEHRAN – Film Museum of Iran will be playing host to the 2nd Australian Film Week.

The film week will begin on August 31 with a screening of "High Ground", an Australian Western co-directed by Stephen Johnson and Stephen Maxwell Johnson.

Australian Ambassador Lyndall Sachs is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the film week, which will be running until September 2.

In "High Ground" Gutjuk, a young Aboriginal man, launches a bid to save the last of his family. He teams up with ex-soldier Travis to track down Baywara, the most dangerous warrior in the Territory, his uncle.

The festival will continue the next day with a screening of the 2020 adventure drama "The Furnace" written and directed by Roderick MacKay.

The film is set during the Western Australian gold rush of the 1890s, and its characters represent some of the "Afghan" cameleers who brought their camel trains to help open up the Australian outback



"June Again" directed by JJ Winlove will be screened during the 2nd Australian Film Week in Tehran.

from the mid-19th century.

Two young Afghan cameleers, Hanif and Jundah, form a friendship with an Aboriginal hunter, Woorak. Hanif is trying to find an illegal furnace so that he can melt two bars of stolen gold, which he acquired by chance after coming across the sole survivor of a group massacre, Mal. The two men have to compromise in order to survive the

journey through the outback, while evading capture by Gold Squad officers.

"Rams", a 2020 comedy-drama directed by Jeremy Sims, will be reviewed on this day.

In remote Western Australia, two estranged brothers, Colin and Les, are at war. Raising separate flocks of sheep descended from their family's prized bloodline, the

two men work side by side yet are worlds apart. When Les's prize ram is diagnosed with a rare and lethal illness, authorities order a purge of every sheep in the valley. While Colin attempts to stealthily outwit the powers that be, Les opts for angry defiance. But can the warring brothers set aside their differences and have a chance to reunite their family, save their herd, and bring their community back together?

The film week will wrap up with a screening of the comedy-drama "June Again" and the psychological drama "Nitram".

Directed by JJ Winlove, "June Again" follows June Wilton who has precious little time to bring together her estranged children, save the family business and rekindle an old flame.

"Nitram" directed by Justin Kurzel from a screenplay written by Shaun Grant based on a true story.

It is about Nitram, an isolated young man who lives with his parents in Australia until he meets an eccentric heiress. What follows is a gripping portrait of nihilism and violence.

Italy archeological film festival picks movies from Iran

From Page 1 ▶ In "Isatis", water, wind, earth and fire tell the story of this millenary city: Isatis, the first city in the world to be built of brick, in the heart of the desert. The documentary is a narration of ancient rites and historical anecdotes; a demonstration of peaceful coexistence between religions; the revelation of the material and immaterial heritage of an ancient culture.

The animated movie "Gilgamesh" and "The Improvement of Human Reason", both directed by Hossein Moradizadeh, will be shown in the Culture section.

"The Improvement of Human Reason" is based on a 12th-century philosophical treatise on human nature. It tells of a child who grows up alone on a remote island, learns to cover himself, defend himself and light a fire. He knows the sky and sees the world as a living creature, respecting plants and animals. One day, Absal arrives on the island and takes him to his land. But they are all too greedy and vain there and Havy decides to return to the island.

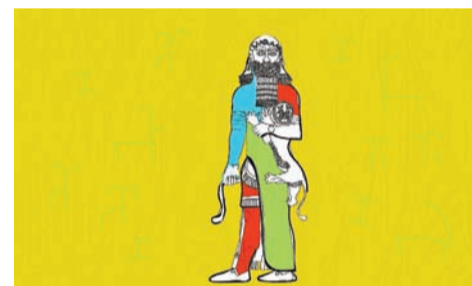
"Gilgamesh" recounts the Epic of Gilgamesh, the oldest literary work in the world. The earliest known version was written in Akkadian in the 19th century BC and best describes the human pursuit of immortality. Gilgamesh, the famous hero of Uruk, a city in the land of the Sumerians, in Mesopotamia, has a semi-divine semi-human character and fights for immortality throughout his life, failing many times.

"Iran Traditional Ice Houses" will be showcased in the Glimpses from the World category.

Director Mehdi Ahmadi shows that before the advent of technology, the differences between the various countries were evident in the world, in the production and consumption of ice. Perhaps the strangest way of preserving ice was the one in use in Iran.

"Felting" by Ehsan Amini, "Tilework" by Keyvan Ahmadi and "Saffron-Based Lifestyle" by Parisa Bajelan will compete in the Looks from the World section.

In "Felting" the focus is on the extinction of



"Gilgamesh" by Hossein Moradizadeh.

felting art in Isfahan, and in "Tilework", the artisan Iliia tells how the art of ceramics is gradually disappearing in the central Iranian city.

"Saffron-Based Lifestyle" shows how saffron's white bud and purple sprout come out of the soil at night and must be picked before sunrise so that the sun doesn't cause its aroma to fade. This flower has a close relationship with people's lifestyle and is a symbol of collaboration between family members.

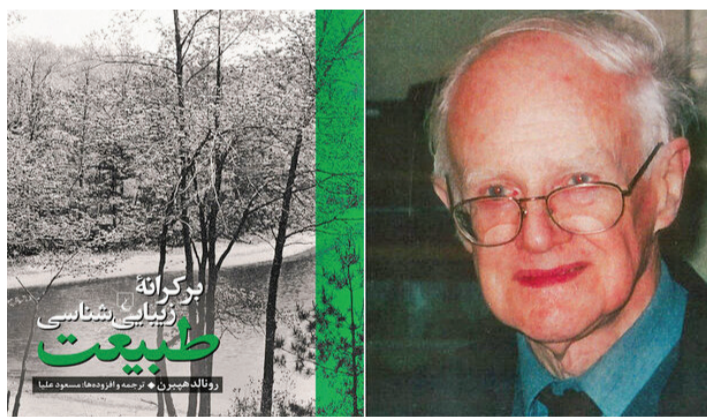
"The Reach of the Aesthetic" extends to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of English philosopher Ronald William Hepburn's "The Reach of the Aesthetic: Collected Essays on Art and Nature" has come into the Iranian bookstores.

Masud Olya is the translator of the 2001 book published by Qoqnu.

This book focuses on the rich web of interrelations between aesthetics and wider human concerns.

Among topics explored are concepts of truth and falsity (within art and aesthetic experience generally), superficiality and depth in aesthetic appreciation of nature, moral beauty and ugliness, the



A combination photo shows English philosopher Ronald William Hepburn and the Persian edition of his book "The Reach of the Aesthetic".

projects of integrating a life, of re-working of the "sacred", and fashioning a life as a work of art, experiments in the aesthetic

re-working of the "sacred", and the role of imagination within religion and in our attempts

to place and identify ourselves within the cosmos.

The essays are both interlinked and distinct, allowing them to be read in any order, and providing useful themes for discussion groups and seminars.

Hepburn aims to arouse in the reader something of his enjoyment in unraveling the connections of ideas that come into view when one approaches aesthetics in its widest setting.

Hepburn was a philosopher whose interests ranged from theology and the philosophy of religion through moral philosophy and the philosophy of education to art theory and aesthetics.

War stories will never end



An interview with Mohsen Momeni Sharif, a close friend of Mohammad Babai and the former head of the art bureau

The story of Koniko Yamamura, also known as Saba Babai, the only Japanese mother of a martyr who recently passed away is recounted in the book "Immigrant from the Land of the Sun."

Although her life story sounds fascinating,

Mohsen Momeni asserts that there are still many aspects of her life that haven't been discussed.

*** As you were in contact with her in the past, please provide us with some details about her personality and beliefs.**

Prior to meeting Mrs. Babai, I got to know his son, and we were arm in arm in Operation Dawn-1 of the war. Some of our friends would frequently comment that he had a look similar to Japanese people. When his mother passed away, I suddenly understood that it wasn't a joke after I had initially assumed it was.

After I got to know her, I saw that she was a very helpful person, especially to veterans who had been hurt by Iraq's chemical attacks. Every year, a group of Japanese doctors who had helped injured patients in the Hiroshima

bombing, came to Iran, and she was always accompanying them as a translator and guide.

*** What feature of her personality stands out to you the most?**

She taught me about having a strong religion and how she consciously converted to Islam and fought for it right up until the end. She never truly sought anything for herself, being the mother of a great martyr.

*** Also, you attended religious ceremonies held at her house. Describe that area briefly.**

The Japanese order there was absolutely interesting to me. Despite being heavily influenced by Iranian culture, the Japanese order still persists! Like that, when we got there, the ceremony started and ended exactly on schedule, with not even a minute to spare.