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Revival of JCPOA Hinges on IAEA Behavior

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Report

2 in 5 Americans think civil war will erupt

A new poll in the United States shows two in five Americans (43 percent) believe a second civil war is "at least somewhat likely" to break out in the next decade.

The figure is higher among Republicans who are more likely than Democrats to expect civil war and comes after the FBI executed an extraordinary search warrant at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, the residence of former President Donald Trump, as part of an ongoing investigation into whether the ex-President illegally retained government records. He has accused the FBI of a partisan witch hunt.

Two-thirds of Americans believe that political divisions in the United States has gotten worse since the beginning of 2021, compared to only eight percent who say the country has grown less divided. This is while few Americans see things improving in the coming years: 62 percent expect an increase in political divisions.

The FBI raid on Trump's home has been met with fury and threats among the former Republican President's supporters as well as some far-right figures who have publicly called for a civil war.

Senator Lindsey Graham gave an idea into Republican thinking by warning there "literally will be riots in the street" if Trump is prosecuted following the raid.

"Most Republicans, including me, believe when it comes to Trump, there is no law. It's all about getting him," the South Carolina Republican told American media "There is a double standard when it comes to Trump". ▶ Page 5

Western parties have asked Iran to play role in Ukraine crisis: FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said that some Western parties have reached out to Iran asking it to play an active role in the Ukraine war.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks before boarding his plane to Russia late on Tuesday.

Commenting on a trip to Russia, he said, "The main goal of the visit to Moscow is making efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis based on a request made to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some Western parties want Tehran to play an active role in this regard."

He added, "Also on the agenda of the trip are a follow-up on bilateral ties and the issue of Afghanistan."

Recently, there have been reports in Western media, as well as on the part of U.S. officials, that Russia, which is one of the most powerful countries in the field of military industries, bought drones from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran has called for a negotiated solution to the Ukraine crisis and announced its opposition to war.

In February, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin stated that the expansion of NATO to the East creates tensions.

"The expansion of NATO is a serious threat to the stability and security of independent countries in different regions," the Iranian president told President Putin. ▶ Page 3



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TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Nay has detained and then released a U.S. unmanned surface vessel (USV) in the Persian Gulf, according to Nour News.

The news website, which is linked to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said the IRGC Navy "controlled and towed" an American USV

which had lost navigation communications in the Persian Gulf.

Nour News said the detention was carried out with the purpose of ensuring security of shipping routes and preventing a possible accident.

The USV was released after a U.S. frigate came

over and was educated on security issues and safe navigation.

According to Nour News, over the past weeks, a lot of American USVs have been dispatched from Bahrain to the international waters in contravention of the protocols regulating the usage of remote control USVs in the high seas. ▶ Page 3

Loading, unloading of goods in ports up 3% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN – Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased three percent in the first five months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced.

As the PMO reported, 62,865,288 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the five-month period.

The five-month loading and unloading of oil products stood at 23,289,283 tons, with a four percent growth, and that of the non-oil goods

stood at 39,576,005 tons, with a three percent rise year on year.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 977,582 TEUs, which was 13 percent more than the 868,743 TEUs in the first five months of the past year. ▶ Page 4

Iran, Iraq, and Syria to start action plan on dealing with SDS

TEHRAN – The Iranian Department of Environment (DOE) will kick off negotiations with Iraq and Syria to launch an action plan for fighting sand and dust storms in the region.

During the early days of the calendar month of Mehr (starting September 23), exchanging expertise between Iran, Iraq, and Syria will start to curb and confront sand and dust storms, IRNA quoted DOE chief Ali Salajeqeh as saying.

In May, an Iranian delegation, headed by Salajeqeh, embarked on a trip to Iraq, Syria, and Kuwait to resolve the problem of sand and dust storms.

Studies and maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively, Salajeqeh has said. ▶ Page 7



The 17th festival to honor servants of the people
The 17th festival, named after Shahid Rajaei, was held on Wednesday morning to revere those who serve the people. The ceremony was attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and number of cabinet members. The event was held as Iran marked Government Week.

TEHRAN – The central province of Yazd is home to one of the oldest Islamic structures in Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

As the capital of Iranian-Islamic architecture of the country, Yazd houses several old and historical mosques including the Jameh Mosque of Fahraj, which dates over 1400 years, and is of great significance as one of the oldest extant mosques in Iran, Ahmad Akhundi said on Wednesday.

One of the most important cultural heritages of Yazd is the historic mosques that exist across

Yazd, home to one of the oldest mosques in Iran

the province, the official added.

To enable historical mosques to be reopened to the people and tourists, efforts are made to help restore the structures, which are mainly located inside the historical core of Yazd, he noted.

Mosques in Yazd, including some that were ancient fire temples, exemplify a culture of peaceful life among divine religions, and the region is a culture of peaceful life, he stated.

Jameh Mosque of Fahraj still stands tall in a

township of the same name in Yazd province. Some archeologists believe that the mosque is the oldest surviving Islamic structure in the country, erected following the conquest of Persia (637–651) by Muslims that put an end to the mighty Sasanian Empire.

The Jameh Mosque of Fahraj primarily consists of an internal courtyard, vaulted sanctuary and arcades, and a clay minaret which is essentially built of sun-dried, unfired clay tiles and mud bricks. ▶ Page 6

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Opinion

Carlos Queiroz's shadow on Iran's football

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taj had promised that he would bring back Carlos Queiroz to Iran football if he won the elections. Now, Taj has returned to Iran football as president once again.

Taj won the three-candidate race with 51 votes in the federation's General Assembly on Tuesday. The football federation acting president Mirshad Majedi earned 25 votes and Azizollah Mohammadi finished in third place with four votes.

Majedi had previously said the federation would continue cooperation with Dragan Skocic if he took charge of the post but he failed to win the elections.

Now, Taj, president of the Federation from 2016 to 2019, who is one of the most debatable figures in the history of Iranian sports, is leading the country's football for the second time.

Iran football has been recently forced to pay about four million euros to Marc Wilmots, who was hired by Taj as Iran coach. The Iranians struggled during Wilmots' seven-month tenure, with the former Belgium coach leading the team to losses against Iraq and Bahrain that put progress to the third phase of the 2022 World Cup preliminaries in peril.

So many Iranian experts and fans have already shown their support for the Croatian coach after the Technical Committee of the federation announced that Skocic should be replaced with a new coach. They believe that it's not right time to change the coach and the National Team must participate in the World Cup with the current coaching staff. ▶ Page 3

Leader's commendation for Koniko Yamamura's book unveiled

TEHRAN – A commendation of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for Japanese-Iranian cultural figure Koniko Yamamura's memoir "Immigrant from the Land of the Sun" was unveiled on Wednesday.

Groups of literati and culture officials attended an unveiling ceremony organized at Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting's International Conference Hall.

"The compelling and dramatic life story of this brave lady has appeared in Hamid Hesam's fine and influential writing," the Leader wrote in a commendation dating back to May.

He called the book "very readable and enlightening" and advised that Yamamura's memoir be turned into a film.

Written by Hamid Hesam based on extensive interviews with Yamamura, who was known by her Iranian name Saba Babai following her marriage to an Iranian, the book was published by Suresh-Mehr in 2020. ▶ Page 8

EU needs to redesignate MKO as terrorist: embassy

TEHRAN - The Iranian embassy in Italy released a statement on Monday in which it suggested that the European Union needs to stop double standards and rename the MKO as a terrorist group.

The statement was released as Iran on Tuesday marked the memory of President Mohammad Ali Rajaie and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Baonar who were assassinated by the MKO on August 30, 1981.

The embassy suggested the EU officials should stop practicing double standards in fight against terrorism, saying standing up for the MKO has severely damaged the reputation of the EU and Europe as a continent, which claims it is firmly against terrorism.

According to the statement which was published in several Italian publications, the embassy called the brutal assassination of President Rajaie and Prime Minister Baonar a "dishonorable terrorist act against the Iranian people and the Islamic Republic of Iran's government."

In a similar terrorist act on June 28 of the same year the MKO had detonated the Office of the Islamic Republic Party, killing tens of judiciary and

party officials, the embassy added.

The embassy also underlined that the MKO formed a brief alliance with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain, who had earlier waged an aggressive eight-year war against Iran, and relied on him for military and logistical aid in fight against their own nation.

The statement went on to say that "democracy is not equal with the freedom of terrorists in the Western countries."

It added, "The human rights and democratic value should not serve as instruments at the service of shutting a blind eye on horrifying terrorist acts, and whitewashing the terrorists by free world governments."

The statement said, "There is no such thing as good or bad terrorism, and if the EU finds that its reputation is damaged in the world, it is because of its support for and protection of terrorists, which runs counter to democracy and the human rights provisions."

The embassy concluded its statement by wishing long life for the solid and historical Iran-Italy ties.

Sanctions have made Iran and Russia allies: commentary

'Military cooperation between Iran and Russia indicate bilateral relations are reaching a new level'

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has turned the country into a heavily ostracized state and opened new opportunities for Iran to build closer relations with the major global power.

The United States, European Union, and the Group of Seven (G7) have imposed severe sanctions on Russia. These punitive multilateral sanctions have put Russia in a situation that is familiar to Iran, which has ample experience circumventing their damaging effects.

The new administration of Ebrahim Raisi admires Russia's action-oriented foreign policy. Iranian officials have also grown weary of exerting strategic patience and have become more assertive in light of the long-lasting animosity between Iran and the United States, coupled with the failure of the 2015 nuclear deal to reintegrate Iran into the international community, Atlantic Council said in a commentary.

On July 22, Ali Akbar Velayati, a veteran foreign policy adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, stated that, instead of trying to appease the West, Tehran should turn to Russia for support and strategic alignment. Russia, Velayati remarked, has a strong track record of backing the Islamic Republic.

A now heavily-sanctioned Russia may seem a weakened strategic partner for Iran; however, the imposition of western sanctions and the demonization of Russia may bring Moscow and Tehran closer together.

The U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018 by the Donald Trump administration led many Iranian officials—and even a March report by the Parliamentary Research Center—to conclude that it is impossible for economic sanctions on Iran to be lifted in a way that would guarantee long-term normalization of trade relations with other countries. Officials have instead put the neutralization of sanctions at the forefront of their agenda. This entails expanding relations with other sanctioned countries to guarantee resilient foreign trade.

The imposition of severe sanctions against Russia marks the entry of a great power into the club of the internationally excluded, which could unlock major opportunities for Iran's economy, as demonstrated by Moscow and Tehran's agreement to replace SWIFT with domestic financial messaging systems. Iran and Russia can now build on their trade to try to compensate for sanctions. According to Iranian Oil Minister and co-chair of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission, Javad Owji, the trade volume between the two countries has already increased significantly in 2022. The goal is to reach as much as \$40 billion, while 2021 figures were at \$4 billion. Iran and Russia recently signed a memorandum of

understanding (MOU) to establish two trade centers—in Tehran and St. Petersburg—to facilitate trade. On the sideline of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Tehran on July 19, the National Iranian Oil Company and Russian gas producer Gazprom signed an MOU worth around \$40 billion. Iranian authorities say that Gazprom will support Iran in developing the Kish and North Pars gas fields.

Recent reports on the expansion of military cooperation between the two countries also indicate that bilateral relations are reaching a new level. The expiration of a UN arms embargo against Iran means that Tehran and Moscow have no restrictions on this cooperation.

In addition, on August 9, Russia launched an Iranian satellite into orbit from Kazakhstan. Iranian officials said the satellite had been designed by Iranian engineers and constructed by Russian companies and that new generations of the satellite would be jointly built by the two countries. Undoubtedly, this can enhance Iran's capabilities and power projection.

Last year, Tehran and Moscow agreed to update a twenty-year cooperation agreement. During a recent visit to Moscow, President Raisi presented a new draft to Putin. Faced with deepening isolation, Russia may be amenable. This would be a hallmark foreign policy achievement for the Raisi administration, as it has prioritized a "Look to the East" policy since its inception. Iran's long experience in circumventing sanctions can also provide valuable lessons for Moscow, which has been made evident by the recent travel of Russian businessmen to Tehran.

The war in Ukraine is fracturing and reformulating the geopolitical and geo-economic dynamics of the world. Contrary to the West's advice that Iran should quickly agree to return to compliance with the JCPOA and seek to replace Russia as a major energy supplier to Europe, Iran is aiming for a role beyond the global energy market to position itself as a critical inter-regional hub. Iran seeks influence beyond the Middle East to expand its strategic depth, establishing new economic relationships with states like Russia and broader ties with Asian countries, such as China and Pakistan.

Russia now has new incentives to complete a long-delayed International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project. This is a 7,200-kilometer long network of sea, rail, and land routes that starts from Mumbai in India, goes through Azerbaijan, and reaches Russia after passing through Iran. Only a 164-kilometer stretch between Astara and Rasht in northern Iran remains incomplete. During a visit to Moscow by Iran's minister of transport and urban development in April, the two countries signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement pertaining to transportation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Amir Abdollahian says Iran seeking 'stronger guarantees' to save JCPOA

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Wednesday that Tehran is reviewing the U.S. response to the European Union draft proposal aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, but stressed the importance of "stronger guarantees" from the American side.

"We have received the American side's last text, and my colleagues are closely studying the response with the required [level of] rigor and speed," Amir Abdollahian said at a joint press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, according to Press TV.

Tehran needs "stronger text and stronger guarantees" to wrap up the negotiations that started in April 2021 to revive the pact and to lift sanctions on Iran.

The European Union, which acts as the coordinator in indirect talks between Tehran and Washington, recently came up with a draft proposal to revive the deal. Tehran offered its response, which EU



foreign policy chief Josep Borrel called "reasonable".

The U.S. took several weeks to offer its response to Iran's comments, which is currently under review in Iran.

Amir Abdollahian said an agreement would not be out of reach if the U.S. acts "realistically" and the present text is reinforced.

"Our purpose is the conclusion of a good, strong, and lasting agreement," he stressed.

Iran urges IAEA to stick to its 'technical duty'

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian also criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), urging the international body to stick to its "technical duty", and drop the "political behavior" towards Iran's nuclear program.

The IAEA has accused Iran of non-cooperation, a charge Tehran has vehemently rejected as "baseless".

Iran has repeatedly called on the IAEA to honor its technical duties,

warning it against being influenced by the Israeli regime.

Amir Abdollahian said he also discussed the status of bilateral relations with Lavrov, including Iran's commercial, economic, transit, defensive, and security relations with Russia.

"We are pleased that the countries' relations are (moving) in the right direction," the top Iranian diplomat remarked.

He also said a roadmap devising the path ahead of the countries' strategic relations would be implemented "in the near future" following ratification by the nations' respective parliaments.

Iranian, Russian payment systems to be connected

The Russian foreign minister also announced that the Iranian and Russian payment systems of Shetab and Mir would be connected "in the near future," saying the countries had discussed the prospect on the central bank governor level.

IAEA is to blame for excessive demands from Iran: nuclear spokesman



TEHRAN- Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for making excessive demands from Iran that go beyond the parameters of the Safeguards agreement, asserting that the sanctions prevent the requirements of the UN nuclear agency from being fulfilled.

In a radio interview on Tuesday, Kamalvandi highlighted that the U.S. slapped sanctions on Iran after it pulled out of the 2015 nuclear agreement, and that the IAEA's current demands are seen to be excessive as they cannot be met under sanctions.

"Of course, if the Westerners remove the sanctions and return to their obligations, Iran will likewise return to its commitments under the nuclear deal," he said.

Kamalvandi added that the Safeguards agreement is centered on nuclear materials, and as per that agreement, Iran is expected to tell the IAEA about the quantity, location, and usage of its nuclear materials.

He went on to say that as part of the Additional Protocol, countries, including Iran, subject their uranium enrichment equipment to inspection by the UN nuclear agency.

The official also pointed out that the nuclear agreement, which has run into problems as a result of the U.S.'s exit, permits the IAEA to carry out further inspections of Tehran's nuclear activities.

"However, as part of a law adopted by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in December 2020 in response to Washington's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the European signatories' failure to uphold their contractual obligations to Iran, Tehran's cooperation with the agency is currently limited to the Safeguards agreement due to a number of issues."

In reference to Iran's decision to turn off 27 IAEA monitoring cameras from various nuclear sites, he said, "If the other parties return to their obligations, it would be conceivable for these equipment and cameras to start operating again."

In July, AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami indicated that Tehran will keep the IAEA cameras, which were put in excess of the country's obligations under the Safeguards agreement, turned off until the nuclear accord is completely restored.

"Those cameras are related to the nuclear deal," he continued.

The official said, "The Atomic Energy Organization will decide on the cameras when the Western parties to the 2015 pact return to the agreement and Tehran becomes certain that they will not perform any acts of

mischief."

Although Iran has always cooperated with the IAEA and allowed it to fully examine its nuclear facilities, but the nuclear body is criticized for its unconstructive approach.

In early June, the Board of Governors of the IAEA approved a resolution condemning Iran for what they called Iran's failure to cooperate fully with the agency.

Iranian officials blasted the U.S. and the European trio (France, Britain and Germany) for supporting the censure resolution, calling the action reckless. Tehran has been insisting that the Israeli regime actively influences the IAEA and this action has harmed Israel's cooperative relationship with the nuclear watchdog.

Back in June, Eslami stated that increased propaganda against Tehran's peaceful nuclear program, including the latest UN nuclear watchdog decision, is part of the West's maximum pressure policy against the Iranian people.

Although Iran only has 3% of the world's nuclear activities, it is subject to more than 25% of inspections by the IAEA, he said.

The Iranian nuclear director pointed to the most recent IAEA board resolution submitted by the U.S. and E3, emphasizing that it was the final test by the adversaries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian responded to the IAEA's action by asserting that the recent UN nuclear watchdog decision was an American scheme to pressure Tehran into making concessions in the Vienna negotiations.

Humanity is dead



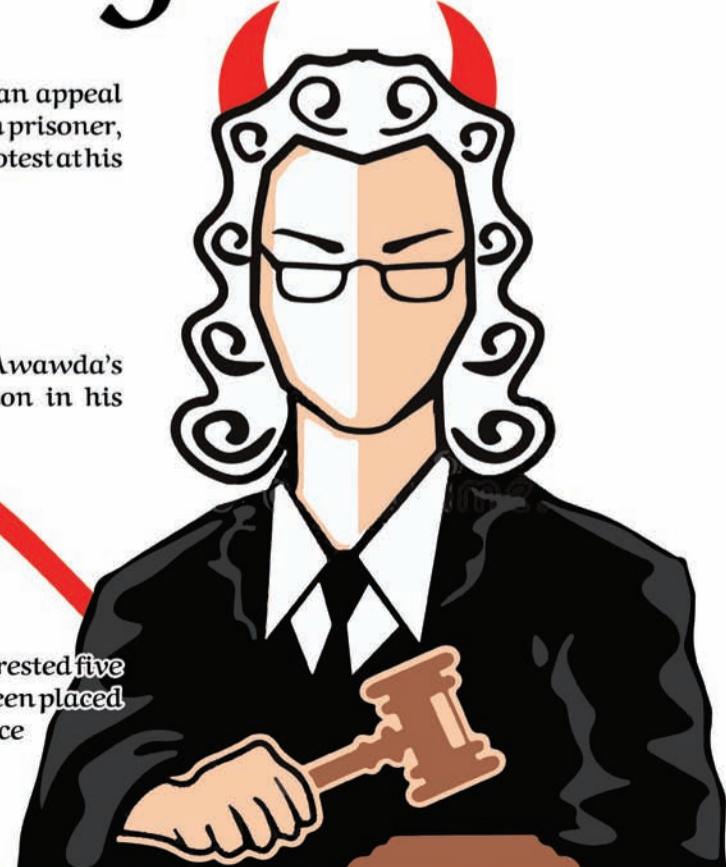
The Israeli regime's Supreme Court tosses out an appeal request submitted for the release of a Palestinian prisoner, who has been on hunger strike for 172 days in protest at his illegal detention.



The court nixed the request lodged by Khalil Awawda's lawyer on Sunday, despite severe deterioration in his health conditions.



Awawda, 40-year-old father of four, has been arrested five times since 2005 for political activism, and has been placed in administrative detention three times ever since



Revival of JCPOA hinges on IAEA behavior

TEHRAN – Iran has rejected allegation by Western media that it has backed down on its demand for closing a UN nuclear watchdog probe into its past nuclear activities, saying that the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal depends on the closing of that probe.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, reacted to Western allegations that Iran has dropped a demand for the International Atomic Energy Agency to end its probe.

The IAEA's investigation into Iran's alleged past nuclear activities has been a major source of contention in the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The IAEA claims that it found uranium particles in a number of "undeclared" sites in Iran. It presented Iran with a set of questions on the sites. Iran provided answers but the IAEA keeps insisting that the Iranian answers are not technically credible.

On the other hand, Iran said the IAEA has moved away from its mandate by pursuing unfounded allegations propagated by Israel, a staunch opponent of the JCPOA. Iran said the IAEA, in its dealings with Iran, has not been technical and its behavior is politically motivated.

In his recent phone call with the UN secretary-general, the Iranian foreign minister said Iran had reminded all



negotiating partners that it is "highly essential" to resolve all "artificial and politically-motivated 'Safeguards' issues pertaining to Iran's nuclear program.

He added Iran has shown "strong, serious and real will for" reviving the JCPOA, and "we have shown this in practice."

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi underlined the same position on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference attended by Iranian and foreign reporters, Ayatollah Raisi said Iran has been committed to negotiations while also working to neutralize U.S. sanctions.

He outlined the parameters for reaching a deal, saying that such a deal would require four conditions: credible guarantees, practical verification of sanctions removal, lasting and meaningful sanctions relief, and the closure of political allegations made

by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Ayatollah Raisi said the talks are proceeding within the framework of removing U.S. sanctions on Iran. In this regard, he put emphasis on the need to put an end to the IAEA probe into Iran's past nuclear activity, which has been triggered by allegations submitted by Israel.

Relying on Israel-supplied documents, the IAEA has requested answers from Iran about nuclear particles found at a number of Iranian sites. Iran gave its answers but the IAEA insists on greater cooperation, a move that has been seen by Iran as politically motivated and incompatible with the technical nature of IAEA work.

President Raisi said reaching a deal is now dependent on the IAEA closing its probe. "We emphasized verification and confidence-building assurances in the negotiations. We also emphasize

that safeguards issues must be resolved and this is a pillar in the negotiations and without it, the talk of an agreement has no meaning," he said.

Raisi added, "The agreement should be accompanied by the resolution of safeguards issues and points that Iran follows as a strategy. We have not and will not fail to realize the interests of the Iranian nation."

Eslami said Wednesday that reviving the JCPOA is now dependent on how the IAEA tackles its probe.

He reiterated that if the IAEA does not close its probe, there will be no such thing as "Reimplementation Day," a stage in the process of reviving the JCPOA that would come nearly four months after the start of the process.

Commenting on the Western reports that Iran dropped its demand for closure of the IAEA probe, Eslami told ISNA, "What we have written [to the West] is decisive. Our intention and emphasis are that if these questions are not closed by the Reimplementation Day, there will be no Reimplementation Day. We did not back down and we cannot back down."

Iran and its negotiating partners have been engaged in long, painstaking talks since April 2021. Since then, more than eight rounds of talks have been held, which resulted in producing a draft agreement.

Eslami said this draft agreement is the result of the Iranian body politic, not a certain faction.

Carlos Queiroz's shadow on Iran's football

From Page 1 ▶ With less than three months to go before the 2022 FIFA World Cup starts, any change could make things worse. There is a separation at the current team and Queiroz's return to the Team will worsen the situation. However, Skocic cannot help the team due to misconduct made by the federation over the past months as well.

Iran have been drawn in tough Group B along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

With Taj back in charge, a decision on Skocic's future could be made within the coming days.

Queiroz was sacked as Egypt coach in April after the Pharaohs were beaten by Senegal in the final of the African Cup of Nations and then lost again to Senegal in the World Cup qualifying rounds to miss out on a place in Qatar.

Now, the Portuguese coach is a candidate to take charge of Iran football once again, however, he will not be welcomed by many Iranians.

With less than three months to go before the World Cup starts, a campaign is underway to oust the national team's Croatian manager, Dragan Skocic.

The campaigners - who are reported to have the backing of some of the Iranian players themselves - want to replace him with Carlos Queiroz, the veteran Portuguese coach who led Iran to the last two World Cup tournaments in Brazil in 2014 and Russia in 2018.

A decision now looks imminent following the election on Tuesday of Mehdi Taj as president of the Iranian Football Federation.

Shamsaei steps down as Iran futsal coach

TEHRAN – Vahid Shamsaei stepped down from his role as coach of Iran national futsal team.

At the end of the Iran football federation's General Assembly held on Tuesday in Tehran, Shamsaei announced that he would not continue his job in the national team.

Iran, the most decorated Asian futsal team, will have to take part at the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup in late September.

Team Melli has been drawn in Group C along with Lebanon, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia.

The football federation, headed by newly-elected president Mehdi Taj, has not reacted to Shamsaei's resignation yet.

IPL: Esteghlal held by Naft Masjed Soleyman

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team were held to a goalless draw against Naft Masjed Soleyman in Matchweek 4 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Tuesday.

Esteghlal, headed by Ricardo Sa Pinto, could have moved to top of the table but remained in second place.

In Tehran, Paykan and Nassaji shared the spoils in a goalless draw, Malavan were held to a 1-1 draw against Zob Ahan in Bandar Anzali and Mes Kerman drew 2-2 with Gol Gohar.

On Wednesday, Persepolis will host Sanat Naft, Tractor play Havadar in Tabriz, Sepahan face Foolad in Isfahan and Mes Rafsanjan meet Aluminum.

Bahrami 'very proud' as own brand becomes Iran's official outfitter

TEHRAN - It has been a while since the last time Samad Nikkhab Bahrami played for Iran, but he continues to be of help to the program.

The icon himself is now the national team's official outfitter through his brand SNB Sportswear, and the future of Team Melli were lucky as they were the first to don the new kits in the recent FIBA U18 Asian Championship 2022.

"We just started our partnership with the Iran national basketball team," said the 39-year-old, who last represented the country in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

SNB Sportswear, obviously derived from his initials, was founded by Bahrami back in 2015 with the aim to provide apparel particularly for hoopers -- from shirts, jerseys, shorts, jackets, and all the way down to socks.

"I wanted to have a brand which is a good fit for basketball players," he shared. "All the brands in Iran are more about other sports, especially soccer."

Seven years later and the decorated cager is beyond blessed to witness the brand grow and be embraced by his fellow Iranians.

"Thank God it is getting better and better everyday. And Iranians, especially athletes, became our biggest supporters," said the three-time Asia Cup gold medalist. "And this is making our duty much more important."

IPL: Persepolis beat Sanat Naft

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defeated Sanat Naft 2-0 in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Wednesday.

Dutch forward Jurgen Locadia scored the winner in the 27th minute.

Danial Esmailifard scored the second goal in the 80th minute. Some 500 women football fans also attended the match in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

In Tabriz, Tractor were held to a goalless draw against Havadar.

Western parties have asked Iran to play role in Ukraine crisis: FM

From Page 1 ▶ But the expansion of NATO does not forgo the need for diplomacy. Thus, Iran underlined the need for diplomacy and dialogue. Ali Bahadori Jahromi, the spokesman for the Iranian government, said at the time

that concerns about the expansion of NATO are understandable but diplomacy is necessary.

"Security concerns about the growing and provocative trend of NATO expansion to the East are understandable for all independent

countries and those opposing U.S. dominance. At the same time, compliance with international law and humanitarian law and reliance on dialogue and diplomacy are necessary to stop conflicts," the spokesman said on Twitter.

Iran detains and releases U.S. USV

From Page 1 ▶ The U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain alleged in a statement that it prevented

Iran from "capturing" its USV. "The U.S. Navy prevented a support ship from Iran's Islamic

Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) from capturing an unmanned surface vessel

operated by the U.S. 5th Fleet in" the Persian Gulf, the U.S. 5th Fleet said in a statement.

Iran calls for dialogue, respect for legal organizations in Iraq

TEHRAN – Iran has reacted to the deadly unrest that rocked Iraq on Monday and Tuesday, urging dialogue and respect for the country's legal institutions.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign ministry said Iraq has weathered a "great sedition."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased that calm has returned to Iraq, and prays for divine forgiveness for those who lost their lives and for quick recovery for those who were wounded in the recent events, and praises the patience, wisdom, and prudence of Iraq's government and nation and all legal organizations in weathering a great sedition," the statement said.

It added, "As it has already stated, the Islamic Republic considers the only solution out of the current crisis in Iraq to be a resort to dialog-based approaches, protection of civil rights, respect for the country's legal organizations, and adherence to the Constitution and political processes, and hopes that all Iraqi groups and political factions will set the stage for the formation of a new government in the country through being responsible and constructively participating in the political process."

According to the statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran constantly seeks a stable, safe and powerful Iraq that plays a constructive role in regional developments and has never withheld support for Iraq's legal and political processes and institutions.

The statement continued, "The Islamic Republic of Iran wants all political factions, figures and those seeking a powerful and

independent Iraq to respect each other's rights and demands, pursue all their own demands and measures in a peaceful and dialog-based process via the country's laws and legal channels, while being responsible socially and politically, and block ill-wishers of Iraq from any exploitation."

It stated, "Given the start of the Arba'een pilgrimage marking the 40th day since Imam Hussein's martyrdom anniversary and the millions-strong movement of the pilgrims toward the holy shrines in Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the necessity of respecting Imam Hussein's mourning rituals and making collective efforts to establish comprehensive calm and ensure the security of all the pilgrims and guests of the holy shrines."

The Iranian foreign ministry concluded, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is certain that the Republic of Iraq will overcome this difficult stage by praying for divine assistance, through the guidance of the eminent position of the religious leadership, and with the prudence, wisdom and vigilance of the Iraqi government and entire nation and political factions."

After 24 hours of intense infighting, law and order were restored in Iraq amid a highly charged atmosphere on Tuesday at noon.

Protesters and militants affiliated with the Sadrist movement began their quick withdrawal on Tuesday at noon immediately after their leader, Muqtada Sadr, called on them to evacuate the heavily fortified Green Zone of Baghdad, which have witnessed intense infighting between the Sadrists and

their Shiite rivals.

"What is happening in Iraq saddened me a lot," Sadr said in a brief presser on Tuesday. "I apologize to the Iraqi people who are the only ones damaged by what's happening."

The nationalist cleric then ordered his followers to immediately withdraw from the Green Zone. "I still believe that the Movement is disciplined and obedient. So, if they don't withdraw within 60 minutes from even the sit-in in front of the Parliament, I will disavow even the Movement," Sadr said.

After this order, Sadrist protesters and militants immediately left their positions in the Green Zone, a move that was widely welcomed by politicians of all hues.

Muqtada's order put an end to 24 hours of infighting, which daunted Iraqis from all walks of life and sparked dreadful fears of a return to the mid-2000s sectarian clashes.

As of Tuesday noon, Baghdad and other protest-stricken provinces got back to normal life, but the situation remains fragile and, without a political settlement, could quickly deteriorate again.

Earlier, Iran had called for dialogue in Iraq. Last week, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi spoke with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. "All the main political currents of Iraq should agree on a way out of the existing political problems through interactive dialogue," Raisi told al-Kadhimi.

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

of the UN Charter, international law, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria," Ershadi said. "This is done under the guise of battling terrorism."

"It is the United States that is working with the terrorist groups in Syria and destabilizing peace and security in the region. The United States must cease its violation of international law and the UN Charter by ending its continuing support for terrorist groups and occupation of the northeastern part of Syria," she remarked.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

U.S. must stop backing terrorists, occupying northeastern Syria: diplomat

TEHRAN- Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN urges an end to the U.S. occupation of Syria and its backing for terrorism, stating that the U.S. has illegally stationed military personnel in Syria's energy-rich northeastern region under the

guise of combating terrorism.

The comments were made by Zahra Ershadi on Monday during a United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria.

"The United States' presence in northeastern Syria is clearly a violation

Loading, unloading of goods in ports up 3% in 5 months on year

From page 1 ▶ As previously announced by the PMO, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of the country increased seven percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The PMO reported that 51,661,306 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the three-month period.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 21 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral



sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

TEHRAN – In a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and Vietnam's Ambassador to Tehran Luong Quoc Huy on Tuesday, the two sides stressed the need to begin official negotiations for signing a preferential trade agreement (PTA) between the two countries, the TPO portal reported.

"An important measure for increasing trade between the two countries is to start negotiations for signing a preferential trade agreement; Such an agreement is underway with Indonesia and we hope that with the necessary follow-ups, it will also be signed and implemented between Iran and Vietnam," Peyman-Pak said at the meeting.

The TPO head pointed out that his meeting with Luong Quoc Huy could be a prelude to expanding cooperation between Iran and Vietnam, saying: "The value of trade between the two countries is currently \$120 million, which is not an acceptable figure and should be increased in the future with the development of cooperation."

Pointing out that the low volume of trade between the two sides has various reasons that should be identified and resolved, the official added: "Currently, the businessmen of the two countries do not have sufficient knowledge of each other's capacities and effective measures and planning should be done in this regard so that we can improve the space for the development of trade between the two sides."

The TPO head emphasized that the trade between the two countries should increase at

Iran, Vietnam stress need to start negotiation on signing a PTA



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (R) and Vietnam's Ambassador to Tehran Luong Quoc Huy

least to two billion dollars and continued: "The first step in this direction is to hold a joint economic committee meeting to activate previously reached agreements because four years have passed since the last meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee was held."

It is necessary to hold coordination meetings in this regard as soon as possible, Peyman-Pak stressed.

He pointed to exchanging

trade delegations between the two countries as the second step toward improving mutual trade relations and said: "If these exchanges are planned and carried out in a coherent and logical manner, favorable trade agreements will be concluded between the parties."

Referring to the fact that delegations can be exchanged concurrently with holding various exhibitions in both countries, Peyman-Pak emphasized that an

agreement should be signed with corresponding entities in Vietnam to manage such affairs.

The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization further pointed to the establishment of a barter trade mechanism between the two countries as another important measure that could be taken for the development and expansion of mutual commercial cooperation, saying: "There are products in both countries that are needed by the other side, and with a barter trade mechanism, such products can be exchanged easily, leading to more exports for both sides."

Further in the talks, Luong Quoc Huy, in his turn, welcomed the ideas and suggestions offered by Peyman-Pak and emphasized that the implementation of the mentioned agreements would play a direct role in the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He went on to point out that in the first seven months of 2022 and after the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, all business and production fields of Vietnam have returned to normal operation, adding: "The country's economic situation has stabilized and inflation is under control; Currently, Vietnam's trade balance with other countries stands at \$431 billion and the country has a great potential to have economic cooperation with Iran as well."

The ambassador mentioned Iran as Vietnam's biggest trade partner in West, South East, and East Asia and considered the Islamic Republic as a gateway for the export of Vietnamese products to Europe.

Sistan-Baluchestan province records lowest inflation rate



TEHRAN – A review of the latest statistical data released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) shows that Sistan-Baluchestan province with 36.6 percent recorded the lowest inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on August 22, which marks the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month Mordad.

The highest 12-month inflation rate is related

to Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad province with 47.8 percent, according to the SCI's statistics.

The SCI has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on August 22 at 41.5 percent, rising one percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the fourth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 52.2 percent in the fifth month, which means families have paid an average of 52.2 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 40.9 percent for the urban households, rising 0.9 percent from the previous month, and 44.4 percent for the rural households, increasing 1.2 percent from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, which marks the end of the

past Iranian calendar year 1400, at 40.2 percent.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 34.7 percent in the last month of the past year, which means families have paid an average of 34.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20 was 39.7 percent for urban households, and 42.8 percent for rural households.

The point-to-point inflation rate was reported to be 34.5 percent for urban households and 35.8 percent for rural ones, according to the SCI.

The Statistical Center of Iran had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, 2021 (the end of the Iranian calendar year 1399) at 36.4 percent, rising 2.2 percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the preceding year.

WCO training center launched in Tehran

TEHRAN – The ninth training center of World Customs Organization (WCO)'s Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) was officially launched by Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Alireza Moghadasi in Tehran on Tuesday.

As Mehr News Agency reported, IRICA has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with WCO in Indonesia for establishing the mentioned center.

According to Moghadasi, the center, which fully complies with the standards of the World Customs Organization, enjoys modern educational facilities at the international level.

With this center going operational, Iran will be able to receive customs trainees and employees from the countries in the region, especially the neighboring countries and this would lead to the expansion of customs

collaborations between Iran and its trade partners.

Launching the said center is considered one of the most important achievements of IRICA since it will provide the country with an exceptional opportunity to develop and promote its customs capabilities and capacities.

WCO is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of customs administrations. The WCO is composed of 183 member governments. It is the only worldwide intergovernmental organization competent in customs matters.

The establishment of the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building was discussed at the Heads of Customs Meeting of the Asia Pacific Region held in Auckland, New Zealand, in April 2004.

Govt., private sector to collaborate on designing financing tools for knowledge-based firms

TEHRAN – The members of the Knowledge-based Businesses Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) gathered on Wednesday to discuss ways of facilitating the activities of such businesses in the country.

Designing financing tools to support knowledge-based projects, designing indirect venture investment models, as well as training and empowerment of knowledge-based companies were among the subjects discussed at the meeting, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Based on the decisions made in the ICCIMA meeting, the implementation of the above-mentioned measures is going to be pursued by the Iranian Confederation of Knowledge-Based Associations (ICKA) in collaboration with the Electronics Support Fund for Research and Development (ESFRD).

Speaking at the meeting, ESFRD Head Mohsen Naderi-Manesh said Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade is serious about directing the capital in the industry sector towards advanced and knowledge-based production and ESFRD is trying to make this happen through the capital market.

He mentioned some of the services that his fund is currently offering to various businesses including providing bank facilities and granting guarantees, and noted that ESFRD's support is not limited only to knowledge-based companies and businesses that operate in the field of advanced industries can also benefit from the fund's services and facilities.

Further in this gathering, Head of ICCIMA's



Knowledge-based Businesses Committee Afshin Kolahi praised ESFRD's performance regarding the support of advanced industries, saying: "Some of the ICKA members, that are not knowledge-based but operate in the field of advanced industries, have been always deprived of receiving facilities and services and now ESFRD can solve this problem."

We all agree on the framework of collaborations between the fund and knowledge-based firms, Kolahi said adding that business-related institutions and organizations are the best places for evaluating knowledge-based projects and companies to receive support from the fund.

"Therefore, they can collaborate with the fund and establish the required communication. In addition, the services and activities of ESFRD can be added to the consultations and services that are currently provided by ICKA," he said.

TEDPIX falls 1,800 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,840 points to 1.439 million on Wednesday.

As reported, 4.677 billion securities worth 38.162 trillion rials (about \$136.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 1,747 points, and the second market's index lost 2,500 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).

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said the guidelines and regulations related to market-

making activities at Tehran Stock Exchange should be amended.

Speaking at a meeting of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mining and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Stock Market Committee on Monday (August 22), Eshqi also emphasized the need to introduce more goods to the Iran Merchandise Exchange (IME), and to stop interference in the stock market.

During the meeting, the members of the mentioned committee and the SEO head discussed recent issues in the stock market and exchanged ideas for resolving such issues.

Regarding the activities of market makers, the attendees underlined the need for revising market-making guidelines and stressed the importance of defining a transparent income system for this sector.

Creating the necessary technical infrastructure for the implementation of algorithmic transactions in the capital market and holding think-tank meetings between market supervisors and market makers were also among the topics discussed at the mentioned meeting.

As for the IME, focusing on cultural issues, providing clear and accurate information about



the merchandise exchange, strengthening IME, introducing more commodities into the market and empowering it at the world level, focusing on the proper management of available liquidity, forming an expert group to review the experience of other countries, supporting the participation of knowledge-based companies in the IME and creating transparency in this area, developing commodity funds in the market, and establishing a strong law in order to deal with ordered pricing and interference in the market processes were the most important issues raised in the meeting.

At the end of the gathering, Eshqi emphasized the need to attend the ICCIMA meetings to learn about the issues and problems that exist in the capital market, and suggested: "To deal with the problems, it is necessary

for the ICCIMA representatives to communicate with SEO and experts in the field."

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.

The expert further stressed that the government needs to formulate a specific strategy for the capital market to be followed by other institutions. He noted that the representatives of Stock Exchange Organization (SEO) should be actively collaborating with the country's legislative and decision-making institutions to improve the market's condition.

2 in 5 Americans think civil war will erupt

From page 1 ► The Senator compared the raid, which the U.S. Department of Justice says led to the FBI seizing more than 100 classified documents, to the lack of action against either President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden or former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"And I'll say this if there is a prosecution of Donald Trump for mishandling classified information after the Clinton debacle ... there will be riots in the streets," Graham said. The Republican lawmaker repeated his concerns again that he has "never been more worried about the law in politics as I am right now."

"How can you tell a conservative Republican that the system works when it comes to Trump?" he asked.

"And if they try to prosecute President Trump for mishandling classified information after Hillary Clinton set up a server in her basement, there literally will be riots in the street," Graham repeated. The senator ended his interview saying "I worry about our country."

According to the new poll by YouGov and the Economist, the majority of Americans believe political divisions have worsened. About two-thirds say Americans have become more polarized politically and they are largely pessimistic about the future of their country, with 63 percent saying they expect the separations to increase and 62 percent predicting political violence will worsen over the next few years.

The FBI Director, Christopher Wray, has already raised the alarm over "dangerous" threats being made following the August raid on Trump's Florida estate. Days later, an armed man who tried to storm the FBI's Cincinnati, Ohio office cited the raid on the former President as a "call to arms," telling his online followers, "People, this is it."

On Tuesday, President Biden said that he was sickened by "attacks on the FBI" after the agency's search of Trump's home earlier this month. Speaking at an event in Pennsylvania he said "It's sickening to see the new attacks on the FBI... There is no place in this country for endangering the lives of law enforcement."

According to a leaked FBI report, other threats against the bureau



in the aftermath of the Trump raid include calls for an all-out civil war and "targeted killings" of all involved as well as the use of a radioactive "dirty bomb" against the FBI.

In a joint report with the Department of Homeland Security obtained by American media, the FBI said it had "observed an increase in violent threats" online following the raid on Trump's residence.

That included "a threat to place a so-called dirty bomb in front of the FBI headquarters and issuing general calls for 'civil war' and 'armed rebellion,'" the statement warned, according to U.S. media.

Some of the threats were "specific in identifying proposed targets, tactics, or weaponry," the report warned.

"The FBI and DHS have identified multiple articulated threats and calls for the targeted killing of judicial, law enforcement, and government officials associated with the Palm Beach search, including the federal judge who approved the Palm Beach search warrant," the report said.

"The FBI and DHS have also observed the personal identifying information of possible targets of violence, such as home addresses and identification of family members, disseminated online as additional targets." The report said the "recent activities" had flagged "potential targets of DVE [domestic violent extremist] violence moving forward."

That "could include law enforcement, judicial officials, individuals implicated in conspiracy theories and perceived ideological opponents who challenge their worldview," it reportedly warned.

Trump, who insists the raid affidavit purchased further proved a "witch hunt" against him, has also warned that "the country is in a very dangerous position."

In August President Biden sat down with a group of top historians who warned him that the current state of affairs was comparable to the eras that preceded the American Civil War and World War II.

Three in five Americans (60 percent) anticipate an increase in political violence in the next few years and only nine percent expect political violence

to decline. Elsewhere the new joint poll found that compared to Democrats, Republicans are more likely to say political division has worsened lately and to expect the political divide to widen. Opinions on the frequency of political violence, now and in the future, have much smaller partisan gaps.

Another major separate poll in July suggested rising gun violence will spill into the political sphere, driven by conspiracy theories. The study confirmed one in five Americans believes violence motivated by political reasons is, at least sometimes, justified. Nearly half expect a civil war, and many said they would trade democracy for a strong leader.

That followed revelations that between 2010 and 2020 deaths from guns in the United States grew by nearly 43 percent and that firearm sales had surged to record levels during the coronavirus pandemic.

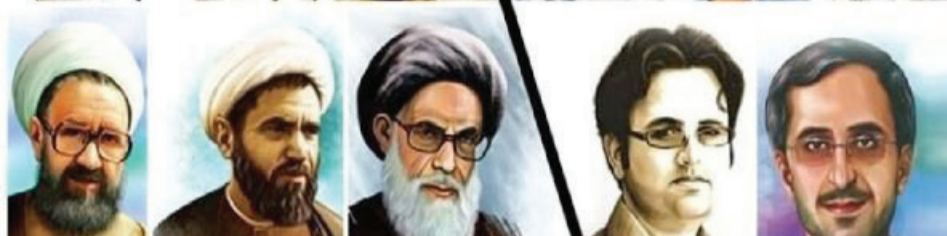
As politics and public health continue to drive interest in owning guns, last year alone, Americans bought about 19.9 million firearms. While that figure is 12.5 percent down from 2020 (according to one estimate), 2021 was still the second highest year on record.

According to Small Arms Analytics and Forecasting which uses FBI background check data to estimate sales, gun purchases did not break the year 2020's record-breaking 22.8 million sales, but 2021 very easily surpassed the pre-pandemic record of 16.7 million in 2016.

However, gun control advocates say data based on FBI checks fails to give the exact picture as the number of firearms traded on the black market for example are unclear. A survey by the Department of Justice in 2019 suggested that 43 percent of criminals purchased their guns on the black market. Nevertheless last year firearm dealers sold about six guns for every 100 Americans.

The record number of firearms and ammunition on the streets with a polarized political landscape that saw the insurrection on Capitol Hill along with a rise in extremism gives worrying grounds for the outbreak of civil war. Now there is an added concern about the fallout from the FBI raid on Trump's home.

Iran politicians and scientists falling victim to West-backed terrorism



TEHRAN – Over the past four decades, Iran has been the biggest victim of terrorism in the world regarding the number of Iranian politicians and scientists who have fallen victim to the terrorism sponsored by the West and Zionists.

Following the 1979 victory of the Islamic Revolution under the wise leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini, the US, the Zionist regime, and the Western-backed anti-Iran terrorist organizations plotted many conspiracies against Iran such as economic sanctions, coup d'état, war, and assassinating of Iranian officials and scientific figures to undermine the growing power of the Islamic system.

Americans, the Zionists, and the anti-Iran terrorists have spared no effort to damage the security of Iran and realize their devilish plans.

Since the 1979 revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered a lot from terrorism, while the MKO has spearheaded the terrorism campaign against Iranian civilians and government officials.

As the biggest victim of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been facing many terrorist tragedies such as the 1981 bombing of Iranian Prime Minister's office, the martyrdom of over 17000 civilians by terrorist groups, and the martyrdom of great nuclear scientists in recent years.

1981 bombing of presidential office

1979-1982 have been the most bloody years for the newly-established Islamic Republic, regarding the number of assassinations of Iranian political figures, theorists, and clerics.

On August 29, 1981, the anti-Iran terrorist Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) detonated a bomb at the office of Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar in Pasteur street in downtown Tehran, martyring senior officials including Prime Minister Bahonar, President Mohammad Ali Rajaei as well as some other officials including Tehran



Police chief Hooshang Vahiddestjerdi who had a security meeting there.

The explosion destroyed the first floor. Due to their severe burns, the corpses were not easily identified. Rajaei and Bahonar were identified through their teeth.

Subsequent investigations revealed that Kashmiri was an MKO operative, who had infiltrated the then-prime minister's office disguised as a state security official.

This terrorist attack came nearly two months after another massive deadly bombing on 28 June 1981 known as the Haft-e Tir bombing at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in Tehran which martyred more than seventy senior Iranian officials, including the Chief Justice of Iran Mohammad Beheshti. The MKO was blamed for the Haft-e Tir bombing as well.

August 29 is commemorated in Iran as the National Day of Fight Against Terrorism and the week ending on the anniversary of the bombing has been named Government Week in the Iranian calendar.

MKO spearheading terrorism campaign against Iran

The Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community. After the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the MKO began its hostility

against Iran by killings over 17,000 Iranians and terrorist activities.

Its members fled Iran in 1986 for Iraq, where their heads Maryam Rajavi and Massoud Rajavi received support from the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

They fought alongside the Baathist army against their fellow Iranians and their agents carried out lots of assassinations against Iranian civilians and government officials throughout the 8-year of Iraqi-imposed war on Iran between 1980 and 1988.

In Saddam's war against Iran, the MKO members provided Iraq with intelligence and even attacked Iran militarily with an army consisting of their members.

The Baathist regime of Saddam had provided them with a camp called Camp Ashraf in Diyala Province, where they were trained and plotted terror attacks against both Iraqis and their fellow Iranians.

After the Saddam regime was toppled after the US invasion in 2003, the remaining MKO members faced massive anger from many Iraqis for their previous cooperation with the Saddam regime so that their American and European backers had to relocate them to a new camp in Albania to use them as proxies in the future against the Islamic Republic.

Those members, who have managed to escape, have revealed MKO's scandalous means of access to money, almost exclusively coming from Saudi Arabia.

West safe haven for MKO terrorists

In 2012, the US State Department removed the MKO from its list of designated terrorist organizations under intense lobbying by groups associated with Saudi Arabia and other regimes adversarial to Iran.

Over recent years, the US and France have publicly shown their support for the MKO.

The MKO's current head Maryam Rajavi, who had taken the lead over the organization after the suspicious unannounced death of her husband, has held meetings with high-ranking US officials including former National Security Advisor John Bolton and former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. They have also held gatherings in France with high-ranking US officials in attendance.

Several members of the terrorist group and its leaders are living in France now, freely conducting activities.

Its members are now freely operating and plotting against their homeland with the backing of governments of the Western countries where they are residing in with the United States and France on the top.

Iranian scientists victims of 'West-sponsored terrorism'

After the victory of the Islamic revolution and especially in recent years, distinguished Iranian nuclear scientists have fallen victim to state terrorism sponsored by the CIA and Mossad intelligence agencies.

Between 2010 and 2012, four Iranian nuclear scientists Masoud Alimohammadi, Majid Shahrari, Darioush Rezaeinejad, and Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan were brutally assassinated, while another Fereydoon Abbasi was wounded in an attempted assassination attempt.

On 27 November 2020, Dr. Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, an eminent Iranian scientist and the head of the Organization of Innovation and Research of the Ministry of Defense, was assassinated in the eastern suburb of Tehran.

The terrorists used sophisticated weapons and complicated methods to carry out the ambush on Dr. Fakhri-zadeh's escort convoy.

The meticulousness and complexity of the attack clearly demonstrate that the agent of the Zionist regime was behind this terrorist act.

(Source: Mehr News Agency)

Gorbachev was promised non-expansion of NATO, his mistake was to believe it, ex-US official says



Former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev understood the needless threat of the nuclear Armageddon, but his main mistake was that he did not understand Washington, where any agreement can be rescinded by subsequent presidents, ex-US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts told Sputnik.

"He [Gorbachev] was the best of the younger generation of Communist Party members who understood, like US President Ronald Reagan, the futility of the Cold War and the needless threat of nuclear Armageddon," Roberts, who served under President Ronald Reagan, said. "Gorbachev also understood that the regressions and hardships of the Soviet years were unnecessary, and he with advisors, some of whom I met and engaged in discussion, attempted to reform the Soviet system. There is no question that he was a great man and a sincere leader of the Soviet peoples."

Gorbachev died in Moscow on Tuesday at the age of 91 after suffering a long illness. His passing has prompted praise and remembrance from world leaders, including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, outgoing UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Roberts pointed out that President Reagan realized Gorbachev's greatness. "Reagan also realized that Gorbachev was limited in his ability to end the Cold War by distrustful elements in the Politburo," he went on to say. "President Reagan's plan, in which I was a participant, was to rescue the US economy from 'stagflation' and then to put pressure of a threatened arms race – Star Wars – on the Soviet Union in order to enhance Gorbachev's position in favor of ending the Cold War than to subject the struggling Soviet economy to an arms race with a revitalized US economy."

"Reagan, despite the CIA's opposition and that of the US military/security complex, carried out his plan not in order to win the Cold War, but, as Reagan repeatedly stressed to all of us involved, to end the Cold War," Roberts added. "None of us, Reagan included, had any idea of Soviet collapse. Our purpose was to halt a gratuitous conflict that threatened humanity with nuclear Armageddon."

What the US authorities did not realize, Roberts said, was that hardline elements of the Soviet Communist Party thought that Gorbachev was making too many concessions to the West too soon and without sufficient reciprocal concessions and guarantees.

"Apparently, Gorbachev himself did not realize it. Reagan proceeded with care," he said. "He invited Gorbachev to the White House."

Roberts recalled that Reagan convinced the distinguished American pianist, Van Cliburn, to come out of retirement and perform for Gorbachev in the White House.

"Van Cliburn had won, with Khrushchev's approval, the inaugural International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1958," he noted. "In addition to classics of Russian composers, Van Cliburn regaled Gorbachev with Russian folk songs. President Reagan absolutely forbade any derogatory reference to the Soviet Union. Nothing, not even the CIA, was to prevent the end of the Cold War."

Roberts shared that after Reagan's second term ended, he had less connection with his successor, his former vice president, George H. W. Bush.

"But I know for an absolute fact that Secretary of State James Baker gave assurances to Gorbachev that if Gorbachev permitted the unification of Germany, NATO would not move one inch to the East," he shared. "There is no doubt about this, despite the denials by American neoconservatives and Clinton regime officials."

Gorbachev in an interview last December said he believed the Soviet Union could have survived even after the August 1991 coup as a Union of Sovereign States. A Gallup poll taken in 2013 revealed that a

majority of residents in former republics regretted the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet Union collapsed, not because of Reagan, but because the hardline Communists, disturbed, as is understandable, by Gorbachev's trust in Washington's word, attempted a coup and placed Gorbachev under house arrest. It was this miscalculation that brought about the collapse of the Soviet government and the rise of Yeltsin, who, intentionally or not, essentially was under Washington's control," Roberts said.

Roberts went on to say that Gorbachev, believing, as did Reagan, in the futility of the Cold War, trusted that the conflict was over.

"Gorbachev's mistake was that he did not understand Washington," he underscored. "An American president can make an agreement that can be rescinded by a successor. This is the case even if there are signed documents, but in the absence of signed documents, the corrupt Clinton regime was able to claim no such agreement as NATO not moving to Russia's borders ever existed."

"In view of the Democrat Clinton regime's overthrowing the Reagan-Gorbachev ending of the Cold War with a New Cold War, now greatly expanded under the Democrat Biden, the Kremlin's toleration of the West's declared aggressive intentions against Russia is puzzling," he added. "How can anyone in the Kremlin ever again believe a word that Washington says? In Russia, Gorbachev is not seen as the great leader that he was. In America, ignorant flag-waving patriots mistakenly base their pride on Reagan winning the Cold War."

"As far as I, a participant, can tell, neither side understands what has happened."

The late leader is known for opening nuclear arms talks with former US President Ronald Reagan, attempting to reform the Soviet system and serving as the last head of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev received a number of awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize and the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award.

"I know for an absolute fact that Secretary of State James Baker gave assurances to Gorbachev that if Gorbachev permitted the unification of Germany, NATO would not move one inch to the East."

50 cities and villages nominated for national handicraft status

TEHRAN—A total of 50 Iranian cities, towns, and villages have been nominated for winning national handicraft status, the deputy tourism minister said on Wednesday.

"We will estimate 50 cities and villages for being registered on a national list dedicated to handicraft hubs," Maryam Jalali said.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC-Asia-Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts." Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a "world city of filigree." And Qassemabad



village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer-garment for women, was, however, the main subject of the WCC assessment for the village.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Boutique hotel makes debut in Semnan

TEHRAN—A traditional boutique hotel makes its debut as the first of its kind in Semnan province, north-central Iran.

Located in the historical texture of Semnan, this boutique hotel is originally the historical Taherian House, which is repurposed following an extensive restoration, ISNA quoted a local tourism official as saying on Tuesday.

Having columns, porches, beautiful small windbreaks, and rooms dedicated to the summer and wintertime, this historical house is one of the stunning mansions of Semnan belonging to the early Pahlavi period, the official explained.

"An example of traditional Iranian architectural style, the house has two inner and outer courtyards and interconnected basements."

Experts say boutique hotels reflect the rich culture and history of a region and are among popular tourist attractions as they are built in lively urban neighborhoods or renovated old buildings and they aim to attract guests as well as visitors.

The country boasts hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas,

mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of historical sites and monuments across Iran have been temporarily ceded to private investors by auctions reportedly to gain higher productivity and better maintenance. Conducted by the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places, the scheme is expected to assist sustainable development for the local communities by fueling a tourism boom along the once flourishing route.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmzar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Archaeological museum opened to public in Isfahan



TEHRAN—On Tuesday, an archaeological museum was officially inaugurated in Buin-Miandasht county, the central province of Isfahan, the county's tourism chief has said.

The museum has been set up in a Zandera (1750-1794) mansion, which has been fully restored and equipped, Javad Farhadi explained on Wednesday.

Private collectors have contributed objects to the museum, including works from the Paleolithic era, the 2nd millennium BC, and the Islamic era, the official added.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once been a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city of walking, getting lost in its amazing

bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesfe-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to seeing the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Completed in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts. However, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

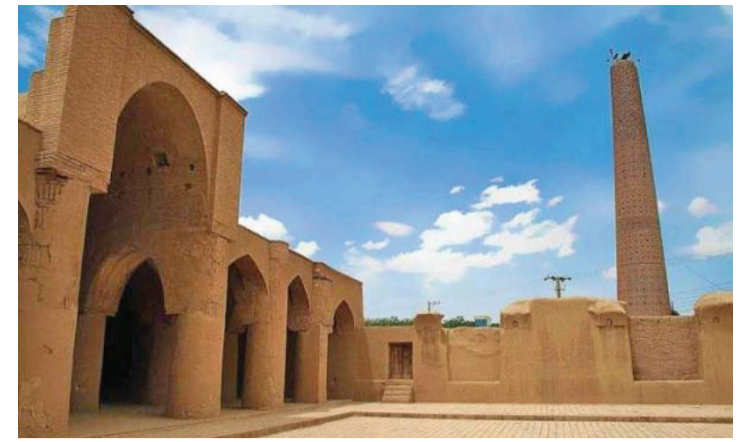
Yazd, home to one of the oldest mosques in Iran

From page 1 ► The minaret was added to the mosque later as a lighthouse for caravans around 400 years ago. It features a tapering cylinder with an internal spiral staircase.

Its modest internal courtyard is lined with clay tiles and contains a now dry central ablution tank. The internal facades are near symmetrical and consist of three arched bays defined by thick

piers, partly relieved by vertical niches, according to the Islamic Architecture Community.

In the surrounding area, there is a crumbling castle, a hammam (bathhouse), and an Ab-anbar (water reservoir) with four badgirs (wind tower or ventilation shaft) used to catch breezes and funnel them down into a building to cool it.



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

Iran is home to countless mosques and holy shrines in the

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

Qatar launches office in Tehran to boost World Cup travels

TEHRAN—Qatar has launched a new office in Tehran in a bid to facilitate travel for the World Cup spectators.

The new office in Iran is the latest addition to Qatar Tourism's international network of representative offices which have also set foot in Australia, India, China, and the U.S., Doha News reported on Wednesday.

The office is tasked to oversee a range of marketing initiatives, including tour operator partnerships, destination training for travel agents, media visits, and advertising, all of which will place Qatar as an option for travelers from Iran for its "cosmopolitan and culturally" diverse experience, the report said.

"Qatar Tourism's choice in the location of its latest office opening is a testament to the decades-long cultural and trade ties between the two countries. Iran is one of 15 target markets identified by Qatar Tourism as a primary source for tourists looking to relax, rejuvenate and soak in some culture," said Berthold Trenkel, COO of Qatar Tourism.

Weekly direct flights between Doha and different Iranian cities, namely Tehran, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Isfahan, which usually take up less than three hours, provide an added layer of convenience to keen travelers.

Iranian passport holders are also granted visa-free entry, which exempts Iranian nationals from any prior visa requirement. Instead, citizens can opt to obtain a visa waiver upon arrival to Qatar. It will be valid for 30 days from the date of issuance, which can even be extended for an additional 30 days.

Tourism projects come on stream in southeast Iran

TEHRAN—Four tourism-related projects have recently been inaugurated in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

On the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), four tourism-related projects came on stream in the provincial capital of Zahedan, Reza Ganjali explained on Wednesday.

The projects received an investment budget of 99 billion rials (\$330,000), the official added.

The projects include two traditional restaurants and two eco-lodge units, he noted.

The city of Zahedan is located in eastern Iran, close to the Pakistani border.

There are highlands around Zahedan, so it looks like a pit. The city is home to the mountains of



Oshtoran Koh, Anjir Dan, Jico, Pir Khan, and Mulk-e Siah.

Climates in this area are characterized by intense heat, aridity, and warmth. Zahedan consists of 4 parts: "Markazi", "Mir Jave", "Nosrat Abad", and "Korin", three cities, and eight rural districts.

It is an academic, cultural, historical, and religious city that has a service structure. Zahedan enjoys a privileged geographic and border location which makes it an ideal place for trade with India thanks to its convenient location on the Afghanistan-Pakistan route.

Pakistan's railway enters Iran from the Mirjaveh border and Iran's railway ends in this city.

By being located among the Khorasan, Kerman, and Chabahar land routes, Zahedan is one of the Iran transit routes. Zahedan's economy depends on agriculture in addition to trade.

There are subterranean, spring, and river wells that supply the water this city needs.

This area is full of color in its literature, clothing, and music. Zahedan's cultural diversity results from migration.

A good example of Baluch handicrafts is the Klim-bafi, needlework, Seke-dozi, and pottery. Zahedan architecture is influenced by Iran's ancient architecture due to its tropical weather.

The collective province — Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in

World Cup. A total of six documents were either activated or newly inked, according to IRNA.

Furthermore, during the meeting between Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi and Qatar's Minister of Transport and Communications Jassim bin Saif ALSulaiti, discussions about launching regular shipping lines between Iranian and Qatari ports were emphasized.

A consented arrangement included tasks to connect Doha Flight Information Region, which was laid out as per the International Civil Aviation Organization goal, with Iran's flying data domain.

In addition, Iran's Foreign Ministry also proposed a visa-free plan to enable the entry of FIFA World Cup visitors to Tehran without charge, Mehr reported.

The expected free-of-charge visa plan would potentially cover nationals whose countries have qualified for the World Cup. This, however, excludes passport carriers of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.

Some 400 direct flights from Iran's Kish Island to Qatar are also scheduled to be launched in conjunction with the World Cup 2022, in a bid to further expand Iran's tourism arm.

The World Cup is viewed as a fresh opportunity to promote Iran as a regional touristic hub and a chance to confront 'Iranophobia' sentiments. The World Cup is a "significant opportunity to represent the true face of Iran by efforts to dwindle the so-called anti-Iranian sentiments," Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister said earlier this year.

the south — accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran, with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword in the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because it is located in a strategic transit location, particularly Chabahar, which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e Sukhteh (Burnt City) and the Lut desert.

Intl. conference to explore Mannaean kingdom

TEHRAN—The National Museum of Iran will be hosting an international conference to discuss the kingdom of Mannaean, CHN reported on Wednesday.

Entitled "The Kingdom of Mannaean and Its Neighbors, in the Context of the Iron Age Archaeology of Western Iran", the meeting will be held on Saturday.

Janoscha Kreppner, a professor of Middle Eastern archaeology at the University of Munster, Germany, along with Iranian scholars Mehrdad Malekzadeh, Yusef Hassanzadeh, and Kamyar Abdi, are scheduled to give speeches during the event.

Mannaean civilization flourished in northwestern

Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannaean, also spelled Manna or Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time, namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaean are first recorded in the annals of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (reigned 858-824 BC) and are last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685-645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhaddon (reigned 680-669 BC). With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaean lost their identity and were subsumed under the term Medes.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau was found from

several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian in the northwest to Baluchistan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. The land encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran, falling below 300 meters.

Tehran to play host to G5 health officials

TEHRAN – The subregional workshop for G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) on health system strengthening will be held in Tehran on September 6-7.

Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health among the group of four countries – Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization as the fifth member of this group to provide technical support in improving this collaboration.

Several activities have already been taken under this initiative, with the Islamic Republic of Iran taking responsibility for serving as its secretariat.

The first subregional workshop for G5 countries on health system strengthening was hosted by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination of Pakistan on November 19-20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.



Exchanging experiences on issues related to moving towards universal health coverage; developing national roadmaps and strategies for improving service delivery, population coverage, and financial risk protection; assisting each other in health workforce capacity development activities, health system research, national health accounts, and policy development; developing measurable indicators related

Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health.

to three dimensions of universal health coverage are among the

goals of the meeting.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

Over 21,000 Iranians die of air pollution in year

TEHRAN – During the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), more than 21,000 people died in 27 cities of the country due to air pollution, Darioush Gol Alizadeh, head of the national center for weather and climate change affiliated with the Department of Environment, has said.

According to the report of the Ministry of Health, in 27 polluted cities of the country, about 21,000 deaths caused by PM 2.5 have happened in the country, which caused \$11 billion in damage, and 6,000 deaths related to air pollution have also been reported in Tehran.

This year, sand and dust storms were the main causes of air pollution in big cities in the summer, he stated.

Over the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021), 40 polluted days were reported in Tehran. Last year, also 30 days were polluted and this year, we breathed polluted air for 85 days since the beginning of the year, he further explained.

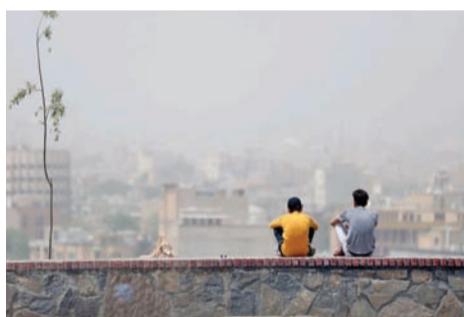
Part of the emitters in Tehran is due to the traffic of diesel cars that use regular diesel fuel, Gol Alizadeh said.

In previous years, it was said that Tehran's air pollution is due to fuel oil burning, but since 2011, these power plants are sealed and do not use fuel oil in any way.

In Tehran, there are many sources of pollutant emissions, and every car that enters the cycle, even with the new standards, creates one or more units of pollution, he said.

Some 34 million liters of gasoline with Euro 4 and 5 standards are distributed daily in metropolitan cities and transportation hubs, which according to the plan should have reached 70 million liters by 2017, while the average daily consumption of gasoline and diesel is 90 million liters, which reaches 105 million liters some days, he lamented.

In winter, the amount of gas consumption



in the domestic sector reaches from 550 million cubic meters to 650 million cubic meters, which has increased by 20 percent, and if we have a one-degree decrease in temperature, about 25 million cubic meters can be saved, and it can easily provide a part of the needs of power plants, he said.

Emitters

There are two main types of air pollution sources, mobile sources including cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains, and stationary sources such as oil refineries, industrial facilities, and factories.

Some 40 percent of the emission is produced by stationary sources, while 60 percent of the pollution is generated from mobile sources.

However, due to severe air pollution in recent days in some metropolises of the country, including Tehran, Isfahan, Arak, Tabriz, etc., many experts have emphasized the share of stationary sources in air pollution in these areas because there are signs of non-standard fuel consumption such as Sulfur gasoline or mazut (a heavy, low quality fuel oil, used in power plants and similar applications).

Even mazut consumption has been approved in some power plants across the country.

According to Article 18 of the Clean Air Law, the Ministry of Petroleum is obliged to produce fuel, including gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil, and kerosene in accordance with approved national

standards (Euro 4).

Also, the share of motorcycles in the production of gaseous pollutants is about 21 percent and in the production of suspended particles is 10 percent.

In addition, every 10 carbureted motorcycles emit as much particulate matter as an old diesel bus per kilometer, which is a major cause of air pollution.

In addition to clunker motorcycles, old cars are also important factors in air pollution during fall and winter.

According to the Clean Air Law, the Ministry of Petroleum is obliged to produce fuel meeting Euro 4 standards.

The number of old cars in the country is so high that Issa Kalantari, former head of the Department of Environment (DOE), had previously stated that “we have become a country of clunker vehicles because now 87 percent of the country's minibuses, 81 percent of motorcycles, 73 percent of buses, and 61 percent of trucks should be scrapped.”

Expenses related to deaths attributed to air pollution are estimated at \$4.3 billion over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022), Abbas Shahsavani, head of the air and climate change department of the Ministry of Health, said.

Air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year. WHO data shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air that exceeds WHO guideline limits containing high levels of pollutants, with low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.

Iran environment exhibition slated for Oct.

TEHRAN – The 20th international environmental exhibition (Iran Environment 2022) will be held on October 11 to 14 in Tehran.

The event is held to promote the role of knowledge-based companies, businesses, and green jobs in environmental protection and to introduce the latest environmental achievements.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, Innovation and Prosperity Fund, National Environment Fund, and Tehran Municipality organized the event.

Another goal of this exhibition is a meaningful link as well as direct and bilateral communication between domestic producers of environmental products and foreign consumers in order to support domestic production and reduce dependence on similar foreign products.

In this exhibition, new and high-tech facilities in

the field of environment are introduced in the management of air, water, soil, energy, and other sectors.

Also, energy efficiency and renewable energy management, waste management and recycling, urban management, monitoring and implementation of environmental projects, electronic banking, research projects, and environmental protection services, public transportation and optimization, fuel consumption, and current environmental standards in various fields, environmental measures of industries, preservation of natural resources, green construction and other technical, engineering and technological fields will be among the most important fields of the 20th International Environmental Exhibition.

The exhibition with the slogan “Environment of basic, smart and technological people” will be held with the support of the Department of Environment at the Tehran Municipality Exhibition Center.

Iran, Iraq, and Syria to start action plan on dealing with SDS

From page 1 ▶ “Environmental protection is a comprehensive subject, meaning that if something happens to the environment in a certain point of the world, it will affect other regions elsewhere. The issue of sand and dust storms is the same. Neighboring countries can harm each other as a result of neglecting the environment,” he explained.

To deal with sand and dust storms, positive measures have been taken inside the country, he said, adding that a ten-year plan has been prepared to curb internal sources of sand and dust storms.

Iran is surrounded by 8 large SDS hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for mitigating SDSs, has said.

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

Moreover, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

In the past four years, about €370 million has been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results,

but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve, Tahmasebi said.

On June 12, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of “Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future.”

Addressing the opening ceremony, President Ebrahim Raisi said, “Conservation of the ecosystem and environment, which is a global concern, especially for countries of the region, is an inevitable priority today. If the environment is not safe and peaceful for people, the development will not be in its proper place and it will even become a threat to human health.”

For his part, Salajeqeh said that the issue of the environment is an all-encompassing and cross-border issue that either stabilizes or challenges the life elements.

Unfortunately, environmental hazards have increased significantly today and have affected people's lives across the world, he added.

The creation of a regional environmental organization, a secretariat, and an expert group to follow up on the approvals of the meeting are on the agenda, he stated.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said on June 8 that Iran is really at forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

More than 80 percent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms,” she noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces, Ali Mohammadi, a senior traffic police official has said.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country, he stated.

According to the statistics, 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan, he added.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan, he also said.

۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند. سرهنگ علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند. وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 31

New cases	1,462
New deaths	47
Total cases	7,528,961
Total deaths	143,867
New hospitalized patients	349
Patients in critical condition	1,082
Total recovered patients	7,296,683
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,801,192
Doses of vaccine injected	154,158,845



Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaean**
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A. Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:04 Evening: 19:51 Dawn: 5:10 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:37 (tomorrow)

Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 11

Nibs must be cut with different widths and degrees of sharpness for writing different scripts with large and clear or small and faint lettering.

Calligraphers use two sorts of penknife (qalamtarash) to prepare their pens: a broad, rigid knife to remove the part below (from the start to the tip of) the nib and also to clip it, and a second knife, which has a narrow blade but must also be rigid, to taper the tongue of the nib and sharpen the tip. For sharpening the penknives a whetstone (sang-e rumi or sang-e hejazi) is required.

The qattzan, used in nib cutting, is an implement about as long as a finger and 1.5 cm wide, made of a smooth hardwood such as ebony or of ivory, bone, horn, or in recent times vulcanized rubber.

The user holds the tip of the nib on the qattzan and clips it by pressing the blade of his penknife against it.

After the pen has been cut, the back of the nib is rubbed against a small vessel containing fine sand (the sprinkler, alak) to prevent it from being too slippery and thus to ensure that the ink will not pile up at one end.

After writing a cloth of wool or silk, colored and reversible, is used to clean the nib and prevent ink from drying on it.

The inkwell (dawat) contains both ink (morakkab) and wadding (liqa, porz). It is preferably shallow and with a wide opening. The ink may be deep black, ordinary black, grayish black, or a black verging on green called siah-e tawusi (peacock black).

From old the manufacture of ink and ink colors have had their own principles and customs, set down in some of the treatises on calligraphy.

Today Persian calligraphers prefer inks made in Persia or other Muslim countries. The wadding consists of twisted silk fibers and is steeped in the ink so as to allow sufficient ink to get onto the nib and to prevent spillage or drip.

For stirring the ink and pressing the wadding into it, a flat-headed, conical tool is used, preferably made of ebony. A small spoon is used for putting a liquid into the inkwell to thin the ink, preferably not water but essence of rose or sweet basil or oak-apple tannin, as they do not spoil the ink.

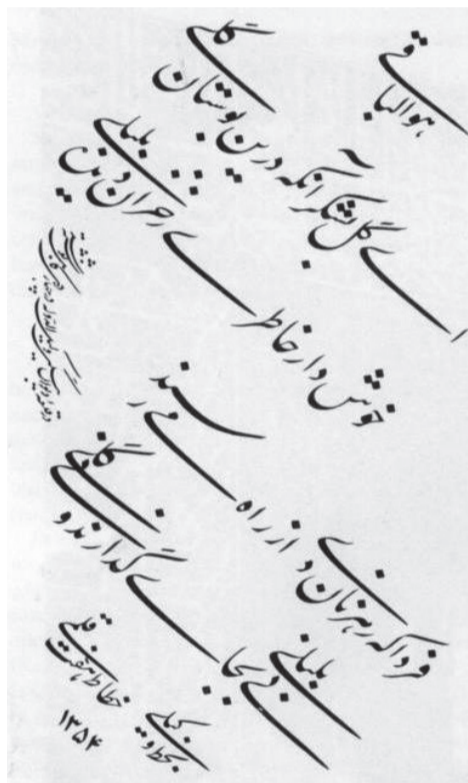
As calligraphy is affected by the quality of the paper, particularly its smoothness, instructions on varieties of paper and methods of dyeing it, stiffening it with starch (ahar dadan), and glazing (mohra zadan) are given in the manuals.

The paper is placed on a writing pad (zirdasti or zirmashq) made of cardboard or leather such as goatskin. It must be level and smooth and is usually not large.

To draw lines a ruler (ma'estara or ma'estar) was employed. It was a suitably sized board of bonded paper sheets or cardboard on which threads corresponding to lines were fixed at the required distances apart.

The board was placed under a sheet of writing paper, the sheet was pressed against it, and the indentations made by the threads on the sheet served as lines and limits for the text that was to be written.

Today this method has been replaced by



Nasta'liq by Aziz ad-Din Wakili, contemporary Afghan calligrapher, dated 1975.

the use of ruled sheets which show through the writing paper and thus enable the writer to keep his lines straight.

For carving inscriptions on stone special tools such as large and small calibrated rulers and mason's squares are required.

VII. Calligraphy outside Persia Regional styles

In the handwriting of the various Muslim peoples, three distinct styles are recognizable: Turco-Arab, Persian, and Indo-Afghan.

In the style once current in Turkey and the similar styles now prevalent in the Arab countries, most scripts are written with sharp outlines and a downward slope, whereas in the Persian style the outlines are smoother and more regular; even so, these two styles are not very different.

The style used in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, however, has in most scripts moved to some extent away from the other two.

Calligraphy in Afghanistan

From Timur (1370-1405) to Sultan Hosayn Mirza Bayqara (1470-1506) the "six scripts," as well as taliq and nasta'liq, were improved and developed by court calligraphers who produced masterpieces and trained pupils, particularly at Herat, giving the Herat school a lasting fame.

In the last two centuries Afghan calligraphers produced fine works, mainly in nasta'liq, where the influence of Mir Emad and his school can be seen.

The styles of Mir Ali Heravi (d. 1544-45), Malek Deylami (d. 1561-62), and Abd al-Rashid Deylami "Rashida," known in India as Aqa Rashid or Aqa (d. 1670-71) have long been admired and taken as models.

Specimens of their work and other reproductions are included in two books by Aziz adDin Wakili.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Leader's commendation for Koniko Yamamura's book unveiled

From Page 1 ▶ In this book, Yamamura recounts how she chose to live in Iran and her life after her son Mohammad Babai was martyred during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The book soon became a bestseller and was translated into Arabic, Turkish, Russian, Urdu and Pashtu.

Yamamura died from a respiratory problem in Tehran in July.

Yamamura's death triggered a flood of messages of condolences from Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

Raisi praised Yamamura's contributions to educational centers, charity events and the Tehran Peace Museum, and said,



A combination photo shows the front cover of "Immigrant from the Land of the Sun" and Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's commendation for the book.

"This immigrant from the land of the sun raised her brave son Mohammad Babai and dedicated his life to Iran, and his memory will

live on in the country forever."

"I never thought my life story would turn into a book, because if I were living in Japan with my parents, I would have had a typical life, but marrying an Iranian Muslim changed my life totally," she said.

"After the martyrdom of my son, several writers proposed writing my biography but I did not consent. However, I met Hesam on a trip to Hiroshima and I trusted him, and the interviews began for the book," she added.

Hesam previously said that he met Yamamura in 2014 during a visit to Hiroshima along with a number of Iranian cineastes, authors and war veterans who attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony.

Iranian documentary surveys reasons behind disrespect for funeral workers

TEHRAN – Funeral workers' service is an absolute necessity for modern life but they are not shown respect in Iran.

Filmmaker Mohammad Karimabadi has focused on the reason behind the contempt for funeral workers, including ghasals – ritual corpse washers, gravediggers and hearse drivers, in his latest documentary entitled "The Hidden".

The short film was aired on Monday by the Mostanad Channel, an IRIB channel dedicated to screening documentary films.

"This film is about those people who do essential jobs, however, their services are not noticed," Karimabadi said in a press release published by the channel.

"The work they do is absolutely vital, but often they are not shown respect. Their work was harder during the COVID-19 pandemic as their lives were threatened by the illness," he added.

Karimabadi said that he made great endeavors to convince a number of the workers to appear in his film and talk about the hardships of their work.

Some of the funeral workers said that they have even been beaten by mourners during funerals.

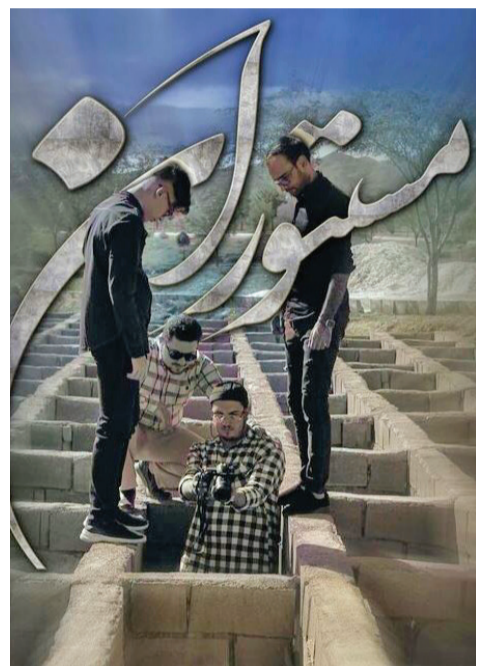
In this film, some of the funeral workers say that do not enjoy an ordinary life due to people's affronting view of the job.

In addition, their children feel ashamed to reveal details about their parents' jobs and many families disapprove of marriage with these workers.

The film also features interviews with ordinary people and sociologists commenting on the reasons behind public disrespect for funeral workers.

"The film was made to change people's negative attitudes toward the jobs being done by funeral workers," Karimabadi said, and added that as a result of education, people's erroneous attitudes towards sanitation workers have changed over the past few years, but they still continue to undermine funeral workers' positions.

"The Hidden" was filmed in the northeastern Iranian town of Sabzevar during February and March.



A poster for the short documentary "The Hidden" by Mohammad Karimabadi.

"Maigret's Anger" flares up in Iranian bookstores

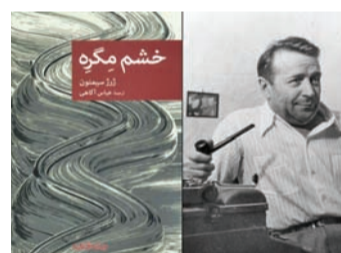
TEHRAN – "Maigret's Anger", a detective novel by Belgian author Georges Simenon, has been published in Persian.

Jahan-e Ketab is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Abbas Agahi, a prominent Iranian translator of French literature.

His translation of Simenon's other books, including "Maigret Is Having Fun" and "Maigret and the Killer", have previously been published by the publisher.

An English translation of "Maigret's Anger" by Gareth Armstrong came out in 2021.

During a quiet spell in June, Maigret is called to investigate



A combination photo shows Georges Simenon and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novel "Maigret's Anger".

the disappearance of a reputable businessman.

When a body is discovered near the famous Père Lachaise cemetery, Maigret struggles to find any clues pointing to the perpetrator and loses his temper

when his own reputation is threatened by the case.

Penguin is publishing the entire series of Maigret novels in new translations. This novel has been published in a previous translation as "Maigret Loses His Temper".

Simenon was a prolific author who published nearly 500 novels and numerous short works. He is best known as the creator of the fictional detective Jules Maigret.

Although he never resided in Belgium after 1922, he remained a Belgian citizen throughout his life.

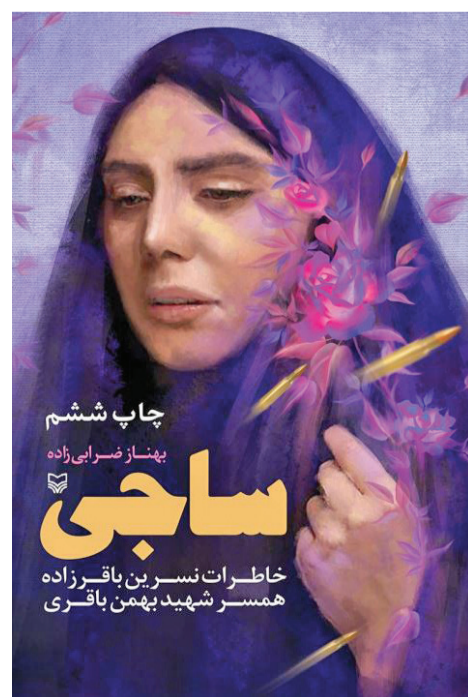
His oeuvre includes nearly 200 novels, over 150 novellas, several

autobiographical works, numerous articles, and scores of pulp novels written under more than two dozen pseudonyms. Altogether, about 550 million copies of his works have been printed.

He is best known, however, for his 75 novels and 28 short stories featuring Commissaire Maigret. The first novel in the series, "Pietri-le-Letton", appeared in 1931. The last one, "Maigret et M. Charles", was published in 1972.

The Maigret novels were translated into all major languages and several of them were turned into films and radio plays. Two television series based upon them have been made in Great Britain.

Days of life in feminine history



A review of Behnaz Zarabizadeh's books

A valuable resource that has long been used to develop engaging stories is the

eight years of the imposed war, but most of these stories are about men and what they experienced on the front. But women were as much a part of the war as men, and less has been said about their bravery!

Fortunately, it's been a while that narrating the memories of women in the war has become more prosperous. Showing the lives of women and the war from their perspectives has resulted in a new vision and more writers writing about it. Behnaz Zarabizadeh is one of those writers who has had a lot of success in this field.

Behnaz Zarabizadeh was born in Hamadan in 1968. She began writing at a young age, has been quite active, and has concentrated on the literature of the revolution and the holy defense. She has also written biographies of several significant wartime individuals. Also, Zarabizadeh is an expert at writing books on the mothers and wives of martyrs, and how they manage their challenges and lives on their own. Her works are clear and easy to read, and because of this, readers of all ages and genders seek them out.

She is the author of several outstanding books, including "Saji," "Sheena's Daughter,"

and "Eleventh Golestan."

Nasrin Bagherzadeh, the wife of martyr Bahman Bagheri, is the subject of the novel "Saji," which describes how their young love and marriage encountered many difficulties and how she ultimately made the decision to remain with him throughout the war.

The life of Ghadamkheir Mohammadi, the martyr Sattar Ebrahimi's wife, is portrayed in the novel "Shina's Daughter." The battle claimed the life of Sattar Ebrahimi, leaving his young wife and five children all by themselves.

Zahra Panahi and the martyr Chitsaziyan's love story during the war is also the subject of the book "Eleventh Golestan." The birth of their child without her husband's presence is the most delicate event in Zahra Panahi Rava's life, and the author decides to write about it.

Behnaz Zarabizadeh is regarded as one of the top writers of accounts of women in war. She creatively excavates untold stories from the war's ruins and tells the experiences of brave women who persisted far from the front lines.