Straight Truth

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Report

Russia says West triggered worst European gas supply crisis ever

European gas prices surged by 35% after Russia shut down a key supply pipeline raising the prospects of blackouts, rationing and recession this winter.

The Kremlin says Western sanctions on its energy sector is the sole reason behind gas supply problems, that have brought the vital Nord Stream 1 pipeline supplies to zero for an indefinite period.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call that "problems with gas supply arose because of the sanctions imposed on our country by Western states, including Germany and Britain,"

"Sanctions that prevent the units from being serviced, that prevent them from being moved without appropriate legal guarantees ... it is these sanctions imposed by Western states that have brought the situation to what we see now," Peskov said.

"We see incessant attempts to shift responsibility and blame onto us. We categorically reject this and insist that the collective West – in this case, the EU, Canada, the UK - is to blame for the fact that the situation has reached the point where it is now."

Asked if Nord Stream 1 would resume pumping if sanctions were eased, Peskov said: "Definitely".

Russia's Gazprom says the Portovaya compressor station, which pushes gas towards Germany through the Nord Steam 1 pipeline no longer complied with Russian safety requirements.

"It is obvious that Europe is getting worse for people, entrepreneurs, companies, to live and work: less money is being earned, the standard of living is falling," Peskov said. Page 5

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Iran sounds alarm bells about USVs

TEHRAN – In what appeared to be a prelude to future tensions on the high seas, Iran's armed forces have encountered a new type of U.S. vessels which added another layer to the already deepening maritime tensions in the West Asia region.

In late August, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy detained and towed a U.S. vessel that seemed new to the maritime theater in the Persian Gulf. The dhow-shaped vessel, known as Saildrone, was controlled and towed by the IRGC Navy with the purpose of ensuring the security of shipping routes and preventing a possible accident, according to Nour News, a website linked to Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Saildrone is an unmanned surface vessel (USV) developed by the United States to increase maritime surveillance in the troubled waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. Page 3

Raisi cherishes agriculture as vital to national economy

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi on Monday referred to agriculture as a vital and privileged subject.

Raisi made the remarks at an event in Tehran marking the start of the agricultural year 1401–1402 and honoring successful persons in the agriculture industry.

The president highlighted that the Ministry of Agriculture is the main upholder of self-sufficiency in production of basic goods, ensuring food security, correct management of water consumption, reforming the cultivation pattern, dealing with profiteering in the distribution of agricultural products and preventing land use change.

"The Almighty attributes agriculture to Himself in the Holy Qur'an, and that He is actually the main and true sower Page 2

Report

National Day of Vietnam celebrated in Tehran

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The 77th Anniversary of National Day of Vietnam was celebrated at the Embassy of Vietnam in Tehran on Monday evening.

The event was attended by ambassadors of some other countries in Iran as well as Reza Zabib, the assistant to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and director general of Asia-Pacific Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Delivering a speech at the beginning of the ceremony, Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Luong Quoc Huy said: "I strongly believe that Vietnam-Iran relations will have new developments".

The following is some part of the ambassador's speech:

Vietnam and Iran have good, traditional and friendly relations, nurtured by leaders of the countries throughout the course of history. Vietnam will never forget the precious affection and support that Iran had given to Vietnam. Over the years, the two countries have shown support for each other at international forums and organizations.

Economically, the two countries have a huge potential for development; the two countries' economies are mutually-complementary.

The recent visit to Vietnam of His Excellency Mr. Reza Zabib, Assistant Foreign Minister, is a milestone in our bilateral relations, actively contributing to the promotion of Vietnam-Iran relations.

In 2023, two countries are expected to have a lot of meaningful activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic establishment (1973-2023). Page 4

Report

Carlos Queiroz almost appointed Iran coach

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - With 75 days left of the Qatar 2022 World Cup, the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) almost appointed Carlos Queiroz as head coach of the Iran national team.

The Portuguese coach will return to Iran for a second spell to coach the Iranian team at the 2022 World Cup. It means the end of Dragan Skocic's tenure at the Persian Leopard's dugout.

The board of directors of the FFIRI had a meeting on Thursday to discuss the future of the Iran national team's plan ahead of the World Cup.

However, after the first meeting of the board of directors with the presence of Mehdi Taj, the newly re-elected FFIRI president, and the spokesperson of the Federation, Ehsan Osuli, claimed that there was no discussion about Queiroz's coming to Iran as the new head coach of the national team.

"There was discussion about all national football teams," said Osuli to the reporters after the meeting. But there was no discussion about Mr. Queiroz. The critical issue for the FFIRI board of directors is that all national teams – juniors, seniors, futsal and women teams – should participate in the upcoming tournament with good preparation," he added. Page 3

© IRNA/ Marzieh Soleimani

"Flag Bearer" performance moves audience with iconic music

TEHRAN — "Flag Bearer," a musical performance led by prominent theater director Hossein Parsaei, is now on stage in Tehran. Bardia Kiaras, a well-known Iranian musician, conducts the performance. And Pouria Khadem is the composer of the fabulous performance. The famous Iranian actor Parviz Parastouei is also the narrator of the religious performance.

40 technology parks to develop knowledge-based activities

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade will develop knowledge-based activities by creating 40 new technology parks within the next five years.

The law of knowledge-based production surge has been approved to facilitate the activity of knowledge-based and creative companies and to track and target the efforts of the ecosystem of technology and innovation by changing the intellectual infrastructure in the economic and cultural fields.

The regulations of this law have been notified to all related institutions. The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade is one of the responsible bodies, which will play a role in supporting production, knowledge-based ecosystem, and job creation in the related field. Page 7

Aras Geopark one step closer to UNESCO registration

TEHRAN - Aras Geopark in northern Iran came one step closer to possibly being registered by UNESCO on Monday when it gained preliminary approval from the 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium (APGN).

Aras Geopark's nomination for being registered on the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks gained an initial endorsement by experts during the 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, which was held in Thailand.

Covering an area of about 1670 square kilometers, the geopark is expected to gain UNESCO status in May 2023, if so, it would be the second geopark in West Asia to be registered on the prestigious list (after Qeshm Geopark), Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Earlier this year, prof. Tran Tan Van, a senior assessor from the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp), appreciated the continuous efforts made by the Aras Free Zone Organization in the realms of studying, identifying, and preserving this geological heritage.

The expert made the remarks during a meeting with the authorities of Aras Geoparks, adding a possible registration would meet strict criteria. An appropriate understanding of geology and how a geopark is formed is not enough to establish and enter the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the expert said.

Sprawling across the whole Jolfa county in East Azarbaijan province, the geopark's topography is generally steep and forms astonishing landscapes. Page 6

Art Garden to host exhibition of Ruholamin's Ashura-themed paintings

TEHRAN – Ashura-themed works by impressionist painter Hassan Ruholamin will be showcased in an exhibition at Tehran's Art Garden next week.

The center will hang a collection of 23 works by the artist, who is best known for his paintings on early Islamic historical events, from September 11 to 27.

The exhibition named "The Images of the Truthful" will be organized to observe Arbaeen, which marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions on Ashura.

One of the works is "Daddy" depicting the Imam in his final farewell to his three-year-old daughter Roqayyeh (SA). Page 8

Raisi cherishes agriculture as vital to national economy

From page 1 ▶ of the Holy Essence of the Almighty Lord, and what an honor for the farmers who are engaged in this blessed work and production," he remarked.

"Agriculture plays an important role in the country's economy and people's livelihood, and plays a very vital role in the country's self-reliance and independence," Raisi continued, outlining the agriculture's significant place in religious culture.

Raisi noted that one of the key elements of the nation's strength is productivity in the agricultural sector. "Self-reliance in the agricultural sector is important and considering the large capacities in the country, we can achieve self-sufficiency in the areas of food security, which is one of the plans of the Ministry of Agriculture in the 13th Administration."

He added that the ministry must adopt a strategy to create food security by increase in production. "I strongly ask you to increase your efforts in this direction, meaning that continue along the path quickly and wisely, and be mindful of an enemy before you who does not want you to be self-sufficient."

Stating that Iran is now self-sufficient in production of many agricultural crops, he said if the country adopts a formidable strategy and properly manage water resources, not only food security will be guaranteed, but the country will be able to export certain crops which it is already importing.

The president also emphasized the importance of knowledge-based agriculture, saying university professors specialized in agriculture should make efforts "in a way that our agriculture becomes both science-based and knowledge-based."

He added, "Universities should help the government and Majlis (Parliament) in making decisions, in which case self-reliance can be reached in a limited time frame."

The president also stressed the significance of increasing agricultural productivity, saying, "Reforming and changing the cultivation pattern that is suitable for the climate, which is profitable for the farmers and also fulfils the country's need for basic and strategic products, is on the agenda of the government."

Water efficiency in growing crops should

be given special attention by the ministry, according to President Raisi.

He also said the ministry should stop opportunists to change land use, warning such an action renders towns defenseless against natural calamities like floods. He emphasized the preservation and protection of agricultural areas.

In this context, the president emphasized the importance and viability of a plan to plant one billion saplings in order to make up for the harm done to the country's natural and forest resources.

"Eliminate middlemen and brokers"

Raisi added that one of the other crucial responsibilities of the ministry is to eliminate middlemen and brokers from the supply of agricultural goods, saying, "This ministry should prevent the violation of the rights of farmers and consumers by closely monitoring the production and consumption chain."

The president declared, "Sustainable food security" is the government's fundamental and central motto, he said, adding, "Providing qualitative, healthy, cheap and domestically sourced food is an important task of the Ministry of Agriculture in realizing this slogan."

"The Ministry of Agriculture is the main custodian of self-reliance in the production of basic goods, ensuring food security, correct management of water consumption, reforming the cultivation pattern, dealing with profiteering in the distribution of agricultural products and preventing change of use of agricultural lands," he pointed out.

The president also gave plaques of gratitude to 14 outstanding individuals from various farming sector.

Iran's vice president meets Syrian FM, PM

Faisal Mekdad says Iran handling the nuclear issue with courage and tact

TEHRAN— Meysam Latifi, vice president and head of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization of Iran who had visited Damascus, held separate consultations with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad and Prime Minister Hussein Arnous and Latifi, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Latifi and Mekdad discussed bilateral cooperation and joint use of each other's experiences in the field of administrative and professional development.

The Syrian foreign minister condemned the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States and its Western allies against Iran and Syria, stating that that these unilateral actions were "immoral" and the "worst form of terrorism".

Mekdad also noted that Syria stands by Iran, which is grappling with the West over its nuclear program through wisdom and courage.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Syria's top diplomat pointed out the depth of relations between the two countries in political and economic areas and joint cooperation with Iran in line with the reform of administrative affairs.

The foreign minister added his country is trying to recruit expert and experienced workforce to complete the project of administrative reforms.

For his part, Iran's vice president emphasized the depth of the relations between the two countries. He also said the two countries have the common will to strengthen ties in all fields and use the available human resources and facilities. Such an approach, Latifi remarked, will benefit the people of the two countries.

He also emphasized the willingness of the two countries to take the necessary steps to strengthen administrative cooperation and implement the signed agreements in this field.

In the end, Latifi emphasized Iran's firm stance in supporting Syria and defending its sovereignty and integrity.

Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous and Vice President Latifi also reviewed ways on Sunday to improve cooperation in the administrative field and benefit from the expertise of the two countries in the field of administrative development.

Arnous said that the Syrian government attaches great importance to the administrative reform project launched by President Bashar al-Assad and seeks to benefit from the experiences of friendly countries in this field.

"We have taken all necessary measures to complete the implementation of the project at all levels and fields, and overcome the difficulties it faces in developing the public sector, increasing its productivity and equipping it with specialized human resources," said Arnous, SANA reported.

For his part, Latifi stressed the deep relations between the two countries and the common will to strengthen them in all fields and take advantage of the energies and human capacities available on both sides in a way that achieves the common interest of the two friendly peoples and countries.

He also reiterated Tehran's firm stance in support of Syria, its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Words War of the JCPOA

TEHRAN— The ongoing negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, aka 2015 nuclear deal, has reached a critical stage. Iran has sent its response to the U.S. amendments to the EU proposed text, and is awaiting the United States' response.

Since Iran sent its response, the Western media have turned on their propaganda machine, calling Iran's response "unconstructive", and accusing Iran of intending to obstruct reaching an agreement.

However, Iran has said it will remain patient. Tehran's main demand stated in its proposal is to remove further ambiguities in the text of the agreement and avoid giving Washington loopholes.

In this regard, Mohammad Marandi, advisor to the Iranian negotiating team, tweeted on Monday, "Borrell is a U.S. ally & forgets that the reason for these negotiations are Western violations of the JCPOA & maximum pressure sanctions targeting Iranian citizens even as Iran was in full compliance. Iran will not accept loopholes & ambiguities. The U.S. is imposing costs on the EU."

The tweet was referring to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's remarks on Monday who said, "So I have to say that the last answer I got, if the purpose is to close the deal quickly, it is not going to help it. (from Iran) So what I'm doing, to keep consulting with all other JCPOA participants, and in particular the U.S., because it is a request that has to be fulfilled by the U.S. in particular...on how to proceed. But I'm sorry to say that I am less confident today than...before...about the prospect of closing the deal

right now."

After Borrell's comments, Russia's top negotiator in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, tweeted, "It's clear that #Iran will not accept loopholes and ambiguities. I am not sure that #EU forgot who is responsible for the current situation. Despite complicated character of int. relations participants in the #ViennaTalks demonstrated so far the ability to be pragmatic."

Ambiguities are an obstacle to any reflection on language. Diplomatic ambiguities can jeopardize political agreements. In conference diplomacy, the successful diplomat engaged in the negotiation of texts will often strive to persuade his interlocutors to reach agreement on a form of words which combines precision with ambiguity. The two can be brought together in the same paragraph or longer text, more rarely in the same sentence. The precision will as a rule serve the purposes of his own side in stipulating claims or limits to commitments; the sought-for ambiguity will serve to allay anxieties on either side or to secure a margin for subsequent interpretation.

In a comprehensive paper in Diplomacy.edu website, Drazen Pehar, a Bosnian scientist clarified the use of ambiguous statements and words and their benefits for parties to a "peace agreement".

"Well, mediators, or those drafting such texts, reason approximately in the following way. If two parties have strong and contradictory interests, and if it seems that neither side is ready to concede a part of its maximum demand, and/or if the negotiations are running short of time and the parties cannot discuss such concessions in more detail, then the issue of conflicting interests can be resolved by, so to speak, simulating a compromise in a very rudimentary form. The mediators may come up with a formula which is open to at least two different interpretations; which can carry at least two meanings, A and B, one to gratify the interests of party A and another to gratify the interests of party B. Meaning A will thus stand in harmony with the interests, or preferences, of party A, while meaning B will stand in harmony with the interests, or preferences, of party B. Thus, the mediators maintain the integrity and comprehensiveness of the draft, and, at the same time, make a small step towards elaborating, at a later stage, a compromise between the maximum demands by erstwhile conflicting, now negotiating, parties. In other words, ambiguities make sure that, on the one hand, the parties retain their own individual perceptions as to 'how things should proceed' and that, on the other, one common language is adopted, which both parties may later equally use," he wrote.

The United States used this technique in 2015 when it signed the JCPOA. Americans wrote a completely accurate, objective and uninterpretable text about Iran's JCPOA commitments which was in their interest. However, their own commitments were written in a way that could be interpreted in various ways.

In writing the text of the JCPOA, Iran was hit by ambiguity in words. Hence, Iran does not want to be bitten by the same snake again in these rounds of talks to revive the JCPOA.

Let us all be clear. Iran's response is designed in a way that would speed up the conclusion of the talks. There is no excessive demand by Tehran or anything that goes beyond the original text of the JCPOA. What has slowed down the United States sending its response to the EU is that they are unwilling to draft an unambiguous text that could benefit Iran. If there is one phrase that could sum up the current predicament of the JCPOA, it's this: A true war of words.

Strategic dimensions, regional and international consequences of Iran's drone power

In a meeting with president of Tajikistan a few months ago, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized the strategic point that "drone is an important factor in the security of countries today".

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always played a constructive and positive role in intra-regional developments and political-security crises in West Asia, in the years after the imposed war has had a special focus on the quantitative and qualitative expansion of its military-defense capabilities and deterrence power, including in the field of "drones".

Eight years of unequal war was imposed in which no military power was willing to meet Iran's weaponry needs, it was an expensive experience for the improvement of the country's military and defensive infrastructure; in a world described as the "age of drones".

Having a large number of advanced drones with various capabilities of detection, surveillance, combat, electronic warfare, agriculture, telecommunications, weather, traffic control, etc. in different classes has made Iran one of the "top four powers" in the manufacture of unmanned aircraft which is considered as a "strong point" for Iran.

If we look at the issue from an economic point of view, there are two important factors that have turned drones into a profitable and "unique market": 1- The rapid trend of using drones in the world, which goes beyond the military fields, including agriculture, natural disaster management, weather, traffic monitoring, etc. has expanded. 2- Limitation and monopoly of drone production technologies that are available to a few countries. According to the existing estimates, the cost that countries will allocate for the purchase of drones by 2023 will reach more than 15 billion dollars per year, which can provide a profitable market for the Islamic Republic of Iran to export drones. At the same time, many low-income countries also tend to buy mass drones, the cost of which is usually less than one million dollars, instead of purchasing expensive weaponry such as American F35 fighters, which cost 110 million dollars.

The American political and media circles, the Zionist regime and some countries aligned with them, while acknowledging the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's drones, have always tried to "induce" that Iran's increasing progress in this technology is a threat to the region!

Contrary to this and the inductions and propaganda, Iran's possession of power of drones and providing the knowledge and technology of this guided bird to friendly and allied countries as well as the Islamic Resistance Front has had important consequences in the direction of deepening peace and security at the regional level, the most important of which are as follows:

One: The effective and efficient role of drones in the field of "fighting terrorism", especially ISIS in Syria and Iraq through reconnaissance, support and combat missions, which even the Americans have acknowledged in their private meetings.

Two: The change in the concept of power and the "balance of field forces" in the region, which has provided the Islamic Resistance with an opportunity to reduce military costs and material and human losses and inflict "strategic strikes" on the enemy.

Three: Strengthening defensive and offensive power as well as "enhancing deterrence" and empowering Iran and the Islamic Resistance Front in the region (Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Occupied Palestine and Yemen), which has become a big challenge for the US and the Zionist regime, which firmly believe in "war and creating crisis" to secure their own national interests.

Fourth: Reduction of human and material losses in comparison with the past battles of the Islamic Resistance Front with the Zionist regime and the anti-resistance axis, which is at the head of the criminal and war measures against this front.

Five: Bringing the US air superiority under question after many years in the region, which General McKenzie, the former commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) also admitted recently.

Under the special regional and international conditions where military and hardware threats are still in force and take on new and more complex dimensions every day, and great powers like the United States look at war as a "tool" to advance their regional and global interests. Taking advantage of advanced and practical technology in the field of designing, manufacturing, mass production and exporting drones is considered as a "strategic advantage" in the military and economic field.

In conclusion, it should be added that news has recently been published about Russia's desire to buy Iranian drones. This is not a new issue, and since August 2019, the Russians had expressed their potential interest in buying Iranian drones. Iran's policy in this field is clear and in line with national interests and in the framework of international regulations, it welcomes countries that seek to enter into arms contracts with Iran.

(Source: Strategic Council on Foreign Relations)

Iran denounces Kabul blast that kills two Russian diplomats

TEHRAN— Nasser Kanaani, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, has harshly denounced the terrorist attack outside Russia's embassy in Kabul, which murdered two Russian diplomats and a number of Afghans.

Kanaani offered condolences to the Russian government and the families of the two diplomats. He also sympathized with the Afghan families who lost members in the blast.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also requested that Afghan officials take more stringent steps to secure foreign embassies and diplomatic posts in the country.

Two Russian embassy staffers in Kabul were among six persons killed when a suicide bomber detonated explosives at the embassy's door, injuring at least ten others, the Russian Foreign Ministry and Afghan officials said on Monday.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic State (Daesh) on its Telegram channel.

The attacker was fatally shot by armed security guards as he neared the gate, according to police, in one of the first such attacks since the Taliban took power last year.

"The suicide attacker before reaching the target, was recognized and shot by Russian embassy (Taliban) guards ... there is no information about casualties yet," Mawlawi Sabir, the head of the police district where the attack took place, told Reuters.

Iran diplomat meets UN envoy for Yemen

TEHRAN – A senior advisor to the Iranian foreign minister on special political affairs has met with the UN envoy for Yemen to discuss peace efforts in the war-torn Arab country.

Within the framework of the consultations of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the resolution of the crisis in Yemen and restoration of and enduring peace in the country, Ali Asghar Khaji held talks with the UN Special Envoy on Yemen Hans Grundberg on Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments regarding the Yemeni crisis and discussed the existing obstacles and also available solutions for the realization of lasting peace in the country.

The senior advisor underlined the necessity of implementing the obligations under the ceasefire agreement by the coalition and called for quick removal of the existing obstacles to transfer of humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen, especially the removal of the economic siege on the country.

Hans Grundberg, for his part, briefed Khaji on the measures taken by the UN to advance the peace talks in Yemen and underlined the need for continued political dialog with the aim of building further trust between the involved parties.

He also described extension of ceasefire as the best available option for materialization of the objectives of peace and accordingly called on both sides to show greater flexibility.

Later, Grundberg met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, exchanging views over the latest developments in Yemen.

The foreign minister noted that only the Yemeni people can decide their future, saying that Iran wants peace, stability and security for the great nation of Yemen.

Amir Abdollahian added that the Islamic Republic believes that Yemen's stability and security can have a direct impact on the stability and security of the region and the Persian Gulf.

He said the continuation of the status quo and a lasting ceasefire in Yemen is contingent upon the complete removal of the humanitarian siege on the country.

Amir Abdollahian noted that one cannot remain indifferent to the fate of 20 million Yemeni women, children and men who are living under dire conditions in order to meet their basic needs such as medicine, food and sanitary water.

The top Iranian diplomat thanked the UN chief's special envoy for Yemen for his efforts but underlined the necessity of lifting of the humanitarian blockade on the country while slamming failure to abide by some provisions laid out in the ceasefire agreement.

Grundberg, for his part, appreciated Iran's constructive actions regarding Yemen and said from the beginning of his mission, he was after a truce in Yemen.

"I have always stressed that we should move toward establishing a lasting and permanent ceasefire with the participation of all sides."

Grundberg also outlined his negotiations with Khajj, and discussed the latest situation in Yemen with Amir Abdollahian.

Kamal Kharrazi, chief of Iran's Strategic Council for Foreign Policy, also held talks with Grundberg on Sunday.

In the meeting, Kharrazi said that "Iran is ready to fully support the UN mission to preserve the ceasefire in Yemen. The final result of these efforts should be the start of Yemeni-Yemeni negotiations without foreign intervention, establishment of a political system based on people's votes, and reconstruction of Yemen."

Iran sounds alarm bells about USVs

Frome 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.

A few days later, another encounter took place involving the American-operated USVs, this time in the Red Sea. On September 2, the Iranian Army Navy announced that it detained and then released two USVs in the Red Sea. Footage of the incident released by Iran's state TV showed that the Red Sea USVs were of the same type detained by the IRGC Navy in the Persian Gulf, ringing alarm bells about further encounters in the future.

Commenting on the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea incidents, Nour News said the U.S. USVs endangered commercial maritime security in the region.

"In continuation of the tension-causing behavior of the United States in West Asia, especially in the Persian Gulf, this country has sent unmanned reconnaissance vessels to international waters in the region in recent weeks," it said.

Nour News added, "This provocative move, which is carried out with the aim of spying and gathering information, has practically jeopardized the security of navigation and has disrupted the passage of commercial ships."

General Abdolrahim Mousavi, commander of the Iranian Army, said the U.S. released their USVs in international waters without paying attention to the dangers that they might pose to the free passage of ships.

General Mohammad Bagheri, chief of Iran's armed forces, said the U.S. is trying to make up for its drawdown of forces in the region by dispatching Saildrones.

"Enemies are trying to compensate for the reduction of forces in the Middle East [West Asia] region by creating new units in different ways," he said. "Reports indicate that they endanger the security of navigation by launching and sending small unmanned surveillance units."

General Bagheri also warned that Iran will not tolerate the presence of U.S. USVs.

"Through international institutions and filing a complaint with the International Maritime Organization, we will announce that our vessels will not tolerate such units on their route, and if it happens, they will be dealt with."

Nour News said General Bagheri's warning indicates that Iran is serious about countering U.S. moves endangering maritime security.

Iran continuing talks to revive JCPOA: government

TEHRAN – The spokesman for the Iranian government, Ali Bahadori Jahromi, has said that Tehran is continuing talks to reach an agreement on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"Talks over reviving the deal continues and the other side must abandon its excessive demands because a constructive path has been trodden," Bahadori Jahromi said in a presser on Tuesday.

He added, "Four issues have been followed... which include guarantees, verification, sanctions removal, and the closure of political allegations about safeguards issues. The Islamic Republic of Iran has not left the talks and will not leave the talks."

In August, Jahromi emphasized that Tehran mistrusts Washington and that the Iranian nation has never forgotten the U.S.-led coup in 1953.

To commemorate the 69th anniversary of the 1953 coup, which was orchestrated by American and British intelligence agencies against the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq, Bahadori Jahromi wrote on Twitter, "Three lessons of the 28 Mordad coup d'état remain forever in the minds of the Iranian people and are the criteria for Iranian politicians' decisions."

The official said, "A strong and independent Iran is what the U.S. is frightened of."

He said, "Trusting the United States in international affairs is pointless, and the approach to deal with this country should be with power, dignity, and adequate assurances."

On August 19, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, also said the U.S. has a dark history of meddling in the domestic affairs of sovereign nations. He cited the U.S.-backed coup in 1953 in Iran as an example of this dark history.

"The U.S. administration holds the record for interfering with, attacking militarily, and overthrowing independent states and governments."

During his weekly press conference on Monday, Kanaani also said one of Iran's primary goals in the nuclear talks is a complete removal of sanctions on the Iranian nation and government.

Kanaani stated that Iran had contributed to the talks to resurrect the nuclear deal, technically known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and was awaiting the U.S. response.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman compared the attempts to resurrect the JCPOA to a marathon, saying that Iran took appropriate steps and presented its views to the European side in order to defend Iran's interests with a happy ending to the process.

Kanaani stated that a deal is possible if the opposite party has the political will and acts constructively.

Regarding the Europeans' need for Iran to assist in resolving the energy crisis, Kanaani stated that Iran is an important supplier of energy and has maintained its market share despite sanctions.

However, if an agreement can be reached in Vienna, Iran might be a possible provider for European countries to meet their energy needs, according to the spokesman.

"Iran will be able to meet a bigger part of EU energy needs if sanctions are lifted," Kanaani stated.

After a weeklong evaluation of the U.S. response to earlier Iranian views on the EU final text, Tehran submitted its responses to Washington via the EU coordinator for the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The U.S. provided an early assessment of the Iranian response this time around, describing it as unconstructive, a position that has been perceived in Tehran as lack of seriousness on the part of the U.S.

"The submitted text has a constructive approach with the goal of finalizing the negotiations," Kanaani said of the Iranian response.

The United States has described the Iranian response as unconstructive. But Iran says the U.S. needs to make a political decision in order for the Vienna talks to result in an agreement.

Iran planning to become nuclear power plant hub: Eslami

TERHAN – Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has said that Iran plans to continue its nuclear advances to become a hub for designing and building nuclear power plants.

"We seek to create an open atmosphere and will pursue the open-door policy. Fortunately, the preparations for the implementation of this policy have been made," Eslami said, addressing a conference on modern energy technologies on Monday, according to Press TV.

He added that pursuing open door policy as well as new innovations is high on the agenda of the Iranian government, which has prepared a number of strategic documents over the past year to achieve its objectives in this regard.

"We intend to provide various services in the field of nuclear technology, including the development of nuclear power plants and nuclear power generation," the nuclear chief said, adding that the country plans to convert 20 percent of its energy portfolio into nuclear power.

Pointing to Iran's plans to construct nuclear power plants and generate 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity, Eslami said, "Given the very good capability and potential in this field, we plan to turn the country into a hub for designing and building nuclear power plants."

SPORTS

Carlos Queiroz almost appointed Iran coach

Frome Page 1 ▸ However, minutes later, it was confirmed by some Iranian media, whose sources were members of the board of directors, Queiroz has been appointed as the new coach of the national team and reported that Mehdi Taj had reached a complete agreement with the 69-year-old coach.

Taj was re-elected president of the Iranian Football Federation at an extraordinary General Assembly held on Aug. 30.

Immediately after Mehdi Taj's presidency, Iranian media reported that he would bring Queiroz to replace Skocic on the national team's bench.

Skocic was appointed to the job in February 2020, when back-to-back defeats against Bahrain and Iraq – under Belgian Marc Wilmots - had left Iran on the verge of an early exit of the Asian qualifiers.

The Croatian coach did a great job and made Iran the first Asian nation to book their place via the preliminaries in late January by beating neighbors Iraq 1-0 in Tehran.

However, He was never fully supported by the Iranian Football Federation and finally lost his job in an abnormal condition which is a sign of the turbulence at the IRIFF.

Queiroz has been available since April after failing to take Egypt's national team to the World Cup. Egypt had also lost the final of the African Nations Cup in January.

Queiroz has led Iran at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups.

Manaf Hashemi named Iran's NOC Secretary General

TEHRAN – Manaf Hashemi was appointed as Secretary General of the Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) on Tuesday.

He replaced Keykavous Saeidi in the post.

Last week, Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa was elected as new President of Iran's NOC, replacing Reza Salehi Amiri in the position.

Hashemi served as Deputy Minister for Development from 2013 to 2017.

He was also named as governor of Golestan Province in 2017 and was sacked from his role two years later.

Ex-Iran coach Namazi joins Hartford Athletic's technical staff

TEHRAN – Omid Namazi has joined Hartford Athletic's technical staff as Assistant Coach and Director of Scouting under Head Coach Tab Ramos.

Namazi became the assistant coach of the Iranian National Team in 2011, and helped Iran qualifies for the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

"I am thrilled to bring in someone with both the coaching experience and the character of Omid Namazi," said Tab Ramos. "One of Omid's many strengths is his defensive expertise which will help raise the standard of defending at the club. He will also lead our scouting efforts, something that is incredibly important to our success on the field. I've worked with Omid for many years and he is the perfect fit to help bring a winning culture to Hartford Athletic."

Later in 2014, he was named the assistant coach of the US Women's National Team before becoming an assistant on Ramos' US Men's U20 National Team technical staff from 2014 to 2017.

He helped Ramos leads the US to their first CONCACAF U20 Championship in 2017, and he was also appointed the Head Coach of the US Men's U18 National Team from 2016 to 2018.

Namazi was appointed as Iranian club Zob Ahan head coach in 2018 and also was named as Iran U23 assistant coach in 2019.

Namazi, a defender in his playing days, began his professional career playing in the American Soccer League for the Washington Diplomats in 1988. He entered the MLS on loan to the MetroStars before moving into the Major Indoor Soccer League to play with Philadelphia KiXX for two seasons.

Iran to participate at Thailand futsal tournament

TEHRAN – Iran will participate at the 2022 Continental Futsal Championship title in Thailand.

The tournament will be hosted by the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) from Sept. 11 to 16 in Bangkok.

Iran (sixth in world rankings), Morocco (ninth), Finland (18th), Thailand (20th), Vietnam (40th) and Angola (46th) will compete in the tournament.

Six teams will be divided into two groups, played in a round-robin format. The top two teams per group will advance to the semifinals.

Iran will take part in the Tournament as part of preparations for the Asian Futsal Championship that will take place from Sept. 25 to Oct. 20 in Kuwait.

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

Sadeghi's double helps Persepolis ease past Havadar

TEHRAN – Saeid Sadeghi scored two goals as Persepolis football team defeated Havadar 3-1 here on Matchweek 5 of Iran Professional League (IPL).

Dutch forward Jürgen Locadia opened the scoring for Persepolis in the 13th minute and Sadeghi scored twice in the 36th and 62nd minutes.

Havadar scored a consolation goal in the 82nd minute from the penalty spot. Dariush Shojaeian converted his penalty into the goal.

Havadar were reduced to 10 men in the 90th minute after Amirhossein Pourmohammad was shown a straight red card.

In Isfahan, Sepahan shared spoils in a 1-1 draw with Zob Ahan.

Naft Masjed Soleyman defeated Sanat Naft 2-1 in Abadan.

Nassaji beat Mes Kerman 2-0 in Ghaemshahr.

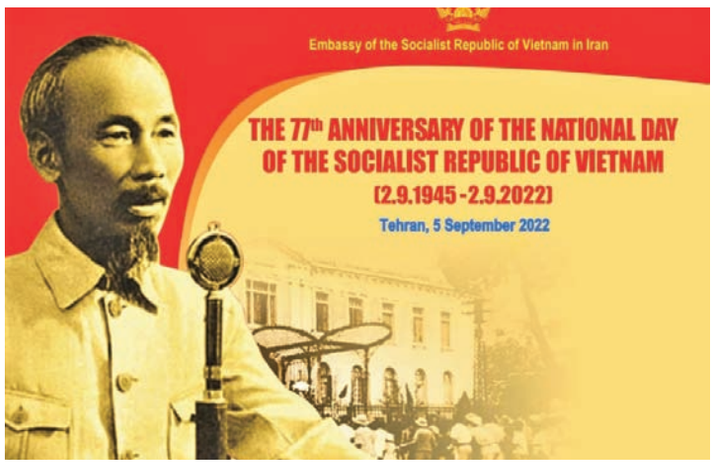
Aluminum suffered a 2-0 home loss against Tractor in Arak.

Gol Gohar edged past Malavan 1-0 in Sirjan and Foolad were held to a goalless draw against Mes Rafsanjan in Ahvaz.

Persepolis remained top with 11 matches, followed by Gol Gohar and Foolad with nine points.

National Day of Vietnam celebrated in Tehran

'Vietnam-Iran relations will have new developments'



From page 1 ▶I strongly believe that Vietnam-Iran relations will have new developments, in accordance to the potentials of the two sides, serving the interests of the people in the future.

In the joy of the 77th National Day of the S. R. Vietnam, may I propose a toast:

May the friendly, cooperation relations between Vietnam and Iran will steadily develop.

'Iran attaches great importance to relation with Vietnam'

Reza Zabib was the next speaker in the event who said that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to its relationship with Vietnam and is ready to strengthen bilateral relations with this friendly country in all areas.

Fortunately, even during the difficult and challenging days of Covid-19 pandemic there were close connections and consultation between the two countries at different levels, he noted.

"I'm confident that considering the friendly and constructive approach adopted by Vietnam in our relations, bilateral relation between Iran and Vietnam will be further expanded through our joint efforts and determination based on mutual respect and benefit", the official underlined.

Interview with Vietnamese ambassador

On the sidelines of the National Day of Vietnam ceremony, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with the Vietnamese ambassador which comes as follows:

1. How do you evaluate Iran – Vietnam current political, economic and trade relations?

Vietnam always attaches importance to the traditional and friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the recent years, high-ranking leaders of the two countries have made many visits such as the visit of President Truong Tan Sang to Iran and President Hassan Rouhani to Vietnam in 2016, the visit of Vice Chairman of Vietnam National Assembly Do Ba Ty to Iran in 2017 and the visit of Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Ali Larijani to Vietnam in 2018. Two countries have been supporting each other on the reciprocal basis at the international fora and organizations.

Regarding economic, trade relations, the two countries have vast potential since both are big markets (Vietnam has a population of over 97 million while Iran has approximately 85 million people). The economies of both countries are supportive of each other: Iran has the advantage of oil, petrochemical products while Vietnam is a major exporter of coffee, tea, rice, pepper, cashew, shoes, textiles,...

2. How much is the worth of trade between Iran and Vietnam and what are the main commodities the two countries are traded?

In recent years, the average bilateral import-export turnover has reached 100 million USD which is unequal with the potentials of the two countries.

According to Vietnam Custom Agency, in 2021 Vietnam's export of cashew nut reached 30 million USD, coffee 17 million, coffee beans 30 million, pepper 14 million and tea 7 million USD. Meanwhile, Vietnam mainly imports products like plastics, petroleum products, metals and new medicines from Iran.

3. What are the major barriers in the way of trade between the two countries?

The biggest barrier for trade relations between Vietnam and Iran is harsh sanctions on Iran. From 2018 onwards, the trade and investment activities between two countries encountered many difficulties, especially in the payment through banking transfer.

Another major barrier is that businesses of the two countries do not have enough information of the potentials, laws, regulations, procedures of doing business in each country.

4. What strategies the two countries can take to improve the bilateral trade? Is barter trade a good solution in the sanction condition?

To improve the bilateral trade, apart from traditional products, Vietnam will focus on exporting other products such as manufacturing computers, electronic devices, garments, shoes, clothes. Vietnam also will promote the export of tropical fruit products including coconut, pineapple, mango, dragon fruit, passion fruit, pomelo, papaya... which are favored by Iranian people.

In the coming time, the Embassy will coordinate and prepare for the 10th meeting of the Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial, expected to be organized in Hanoi this year. This meeting will identify the difficulties, obstacles and set forth main contents, solutions, mechanisms to promote the bilateral relations in the years to come.

To further boost trade volume between the two countries, both sides also should reach agreement for the conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and to sign a MOU in the field of plant quarantine and inspection.

Barter trade is a good option in the context of sanctions that have not been lifted. The two sides need to discuss and identify specific companies and products participating in this mechanism.

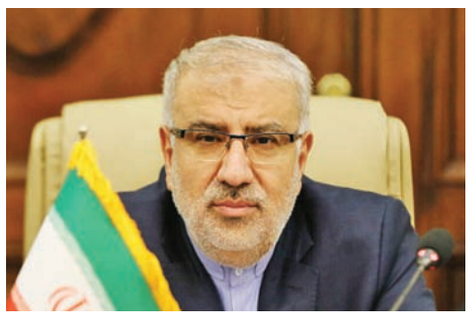
5. Other comments

On this very significant occasion of our National Day (Sep 2nd 1945 – Sep 2nd 2022), we highly appreciate and are thankful to the President of I. R Iran, H. E. Mr. Ebrahim Raeisi who conveyed his congratulation message to President of the S. R Vietnam, H. E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

Next year (2023) will be an important milestone in the Vietnam-Iran relationship when the two countries will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic establishment (August 4th 1973 – August 4th 2023). It is expected that both sides will have a lot of meaningful activities on this occasion to deepen our friendly relations

I strongly believe that Vietnam-Iran relations will have new developments, in accordance to the potentials of the two sides, serving the interests of the people in the future.

Iran ready to help maintain global energy security: Oji



TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has stressed that the global energy market needs an increase in the supply of Iranian oil, saying: "As a major producer of oil and petroleum products, we are always ready to play our role in maintaining global energy security away from politics."

Speaking after an OPEC+ meeting on Monday, Oji noted that the global energy crisis is intensifying, especially in Europe, Shana reported.

"Although the Europeans are trying to compensate for the lack of energy and reduce the severity of the crisis with some changes in their energy policies, the stable and reliable supply of energy sources is a necessity for European consumers as the fall and winter seasons approach," the minister said.

The official further stated that the role and importance of Iran's supply of energy resources, including oil, gas, and petroleum products, is of double importance in ensuring the stability and security of the world's energy.

"It is a fact that the increase in the price of natural gas in the European market leads consumers to consume oil and oil products, and a significant increase in the demand for oil and oil products in the green continent is not far from the mind," Oji added.

"We have always declared that Iran is ready to contribute to the improvement of the energy security in the world by avoiding the political use of energy. The global energy market needs an increase in the supply of oil and natural gas from Iran," the minister said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official mentioned the outcomes of the recent OPEC+ meeting, saying: "From a technical and practical point of view, the joint technical committee (JTC) of OPEC+ in its base scenario has predicted the excess oil supply in 2022 to be 400,000 barrels per day, which is about 600,000 barrels per day less than the previous month's forecast."

He stated that according to the studies, OPEC+ decisions have helped to improve the conditions of the oil market in terms of supply and demand balance, adding: "However, in the current situation, as a result of some concerns about the consequences of geopolitical tensions for the world's economic growth and possible demand destruction, the global oil market is in a fragile state, and the proof of this is the high volatility of crude oil prices in recent months, which should be taken into account."

Pointing out that some OPEC+ ministers have also underlined the issue in recent weeks, the oil minister emphasized: "The current situation requires a lot of careful consideration."

"According to the latest published statistics and reports, the compliance of OPEC+ countries with the cuts deal reached 546 percent in July 2022; the main reason for the increase in the compliance level was that some member countries did not produce at the level they were supposed to."

"OPEC+ is at the highest level of cooperation and I think almost all members of OPEC+ have the same opinion regarding the achievements of this cooperation for market stability. The stability and continuity of OPEC+ cooperation can greatly help the world's consumers in the current crisis," he emphasized.

Projects worth $600m to add 360,000 tons to Iran's petchem output

TEHRAN – Managing Director of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Complementary Industries Investment And Development Group Company Rashid Ghanei has said new petrochemical projects with a total investment of $600 million are underway by the company.

According to Ghanei, when completed the mentioned projects are going to add 360,000 tons to the country's petrochemical production capacity, IRNA reported.

The official noted that most of the above-mentioned projects are development projects aimed at competing the value chain of the country's petrochemical industry.

Persian Gulf Petrochemical Complementary Industries Investment And Development Group Company is a subsidiary of Iran's biggest petrochemical holding Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC).

Over the past few years, Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has been following a new strategy to complete the value

chain and diversify the portfolio of valuable products in the petrochemical industry.

The industry has played a key role in domestic economic growth as it creates value-added and reduces the sale of oil and gas on which the economy has been dependent for decades.

With abundant hydrocarbon reserves and new private sector investments, Iran is working hard to maintain its global status in this key sector and broaden its scope.

TCCIMA to host Iran-Armenia business-banking forum on Sunday

TEHRAN- Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) will host an Iran-Armenia business-banking forum on Sunday (September 11).

The event will be held in collaboration with Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce, and is aimed at presenting the latest developments in bilateral relations and opportunities for cooperation, in the continuation of the progress of negotiations on the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak on Sunday hosted a meeting with Armenia's Deputy Economy Minister Narek Teryan in which the officials talked about a variety of

areas for economic cooperation between the two countries.

The development of trade relations, alternative ways of transit, barter trade, the establishment of an Iranian car production line in Armenia, and the establishment of a joint production line of household and electronic appliances were among the subjects discussed at the meeting.

During the talks, Peyman-Pak expressed the readiness of Iranian contractors and companies to participate in Armenia's transportation projects and called on the Armenian side to reconsider some of the regulations regarding taxes and transit tolls.

Welcoming the presence of Iranian companies in the road construction projects of Armenia, Teryan for his part said: "From Armenia's point of view, revising the tax and toll regulations is a very important issue; Our experts conducted many studies in this regard the result of which will have a great impact on the development of trade relations between the two countries."

TEDPIX falls nearly 6,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 5,945 points to 1.42 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 4.237 billion securities worth 30.713 trillion rials (about $109.68 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 5,013 points, and the second market's index dropped 9,986 points.

TEDPIX fell 2,996 points (0.21 percent) to 1.439 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, 29.571 billion securities worth 226.63 trillion rials (about $810 million) were traded through 725.671 deals at the TSE in the past week.

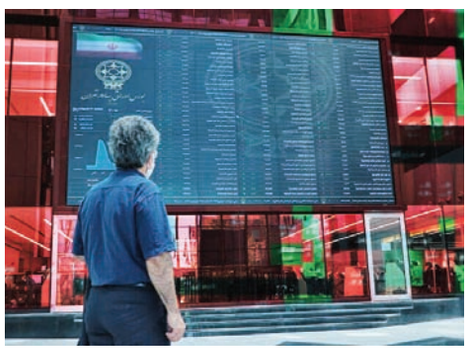
The number and value of traded securities dropped 9.11 percent and 1.26 percent, respectively, and the number of deals fell 1.01 percent in the past week from the preceding week.

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.

PGMISEZ attracts $5b of investment from private sector

TEHRAN – The managing director of Persian Gulf Mining and Metal Industries Special Economic Zone (PGMISEZ) has said more than five billion dollars of private sector investment has been attracted into development projects underway in the zone in recent years, IRIB reported.

According to Hassan Khalaj-Tehrani, currently more than 20 renowned private companies active in various fields including steel, aluminum, petrochemicals, etc., are constructing complexes or installing equipment in a variety of projects.

The official noted that the completion of these projects is going to create job opportunities for over 16,000 people.

Over 19 companies with a total investment of more than $4.5 billion are already operating in PGMISEZ, Khalaj-Tehrani said.

Russia says West triggered worst European gas supply crisis ever

From page 1 ▶ "And of course, ordinary citizens will have more and more questions about the leadership of their countries." Sanctions on Russian supplies have pushed up European gas prices by nearly 400% over the past year.

The Kremlin also says sanctions are disrupting the ability of Siemens Energy, which supplies and services equipment for the pipeline, to help repair the engine oil leak.

"Other reasons that would cause problems with the pumping don't exist," Peskov was cited by the Interfax news agency as saying.

Russian flows of gas via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which runs under the Baltic Sea to Germany are now zero. Before the Ukraine conflict, the pipeline supplied about a third of the gas exported by Russia to Europe but was running at only 20% of capacity before the halting to zero because of sanctions and technical problems.

The Kremlin announcement intensified the energy crisis, which has dealt a heavy blow to Western Europe's economy

On Friday, Gazprom had said it detected an oil leak, during three days of maintenance work, in the only turbine that was still working at Portovaya, and would shut off natural gas supply until the hazardous issue was fixed.

Since the conflict in Ukraine, the United States, and its allies have embarked on an economic war against Russia with the most severe sanctions. Moscow has warned that they will face an energy crisis as a result of the sanctions backfiring.

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that in order to avoid the risk of energy rationing and cuts this winter there must be a ten percent reduction in the country's energy use over the coming weeks and months.

"The best energy is that which we do not consume," the French leader said at a news conference, where he urged French businesses

and households to save energy, including by turning down the heating and air conditioning.

France is among the many European countries that have cut back as energy costs rise uncontrollably. The European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, says the European Union's electricity market "is no longer operating" as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. The EU's energy ministers are set to hold an emergency meeting on Friday in Brussels to discuss the bloc's out-of-control energy crisis.

Macron did not offer an explanation as to how the 10 percent energy saving incentive would be policed or measured. Many French households are already curbing their use of gas and electricity because of rising prices, but it appears impossible that everyone will follow Macron's call.

France's prime minister has raised the possibility of homes facing blackouts for two-hours in the winter if solutions are not found. German importers are discussing possible rationing in the European Union's biggest economy.

Power spot prices (the half-hour price of wholesale market electricity) across Western Europe have climbed to unparalleled levels. European benchmark gas futures closed 15% higher, after earlier jumping as much as 35%. Power also gave up some of its gains. Nevertheless, the volatile gas market shows no sign of erasing the gains it made since last year and there is now the risk of even higher prices during the winter months.

On Tuesday, Russia's foreign ministry said that the United States had fomented Europe's gas supply crisis by pushing European leaders towards the "suicidal" step of cutting economic and energy cooperation with Moscow.

When asked what needed to happen for Nord Stream 1 to begin pumping again, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters "you are asking me questions that even children know the answer to: those who started this need to finish this."

She accused the United States of having long sought to break the energy ties between Russia and major European powers such as Germany, even though Moscow had been a reliable energy supplier since Soviet times.

"The dominance of Washington prevailed," Zakharova told Reuters on the sidelines of Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. "Political forces were brought to power in the European Union who are playing the role of 'sheep-provocateurs.'"

"It is absolute suicide but it seems they will have to go through this," she said.

The conflict in Ukraine began after Moscow warned against the eastward expansion of the U.S.-led NATO military alliance toward Russian borders. The Kremlin asked for security guarantees from the U.S. but failed to respond to Russia's security concerns.

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched what it called a special military operation in Ukraine. Soon after the West imposed unprecedented sanctions, which targeted Russian energy. Critics accuse American energy of financially benefiting from the violence and have called on the West to offer a tangible peace solution saying the sanctions policy has failed to end the conflict.

Many European power distributors have already collapsed as a result of supply problems and some major generators could be at risk, hit by caps that limit the price rises they can pass to consumers or caught out by hedging bets, with gas prices now 400% more than a year ago.

Nord Stream 1, which runs under the Baltic Sea to Germany, historically supplied about a third of the gas Russia exported to Europe, although it was already running at around 20% of capacity since June because of Western sanctions.

Rating agency Fitch said there were still many uncertainties surrounding EU winter gas supply and demand, such as the temperature, supplies of LNG, and the evolution of the conflict in Ukraine.

With the euro dropping to a record 20-year low, the eurozone is now almost certainly believed to be entering a recession as surveys show a rising cost of living crisis and a gloomy outlook that is keeping consumers away from spending.

The United Kingdom is worse off than the Eurozone.

Liz Truss has many challenges ahead of her -- including a party now well versed in regicide

Liz Truss will take over from Boris Johnson as prime minister of the UK with an in-tray that may leave her wondering why she wanted the job in the first place.

From the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation to public services simply not working, Truss will have to plug major holes with a sluggish economy and a promise to introduce no new taxes.

And she will have to do it while leading a Conservative Party that is bitterly divided and far from guaranteed to support her vision for the country.

Cost Of Living

Inflation rose above 10% in July for the first time in 40 years. It was driven by the rising cost of energy and food. Average household energy bills have risen 54% already this year and are forecast to go even higher.

This is bad news not just for households but also businesses that the government had to bail out during the pandemic, many of which will simply not be able to pay the bills and will be forced to close without support.

A poor economy

Compounding Truss' woes is the fact that the UK is on track for a recession by the end of the year, according to the Bank of England. GDP dropped by 0.1% in the second quarter of this year and analysts believe the third quarter will put the country into a technical recession.

And on Monday, in a signal of the serious challenges ahead, the British pound dropped 0.3% to its lowest level against the US dollar since 1985, before recovering slightly.

Public services falling apart

Lots of things in the UK simply seem to be failing at the moment. Waiting times to receive health care are at their longest in recent history. This is in part because of the pandemic putting the National Health Service under greater strain, but it is also because of staff shortages and insufficient funding, the British Medical Association says.

There are similar staffing and funding problems in social care, schools, universities and local government.

Strikes

Thoughout this year, transportation workers, journalists, lawyers, refuse workers and postal workers have gone on strike. In many of the cases, union bosses have blamed the government for failing to meet their demands and break the deadlock.

These strikes will have an obvious knock-on effect for productivity and economic growth, something Truss has vowed to improve in her economic plan.

International headaches

Of course, Truss will also enter office amid a complicated global situation. Ukraine is still under Russian invasion, China is still threatening Taiwan. And then there's the mess of Brexit, which is still causing huge problems both in Britain and overseas.

Truss, who is still foreign secretary until she starts her new gig, knows these problems well but may find that being PM requires more diplomacy than she has often shown in her current role, where she has taken a hard line with Europe and a hawkish position on both Russia and China.

Her own MPs

Arguably the biggest danger for Truss comes from her own Conservative MPs, who are now rather well versed in regicide. Truss has not outlined how she plans to address any of the issues above and her parliamentary colleagues are far from confident she has the answers.

Privately, some say she could even be forced out of office before the next election, which would mean the Conservative Party having five leaders since taking office in 2010.

Truss came second to her rival Rishi Sunak when Conservative MPs reached the last round of voting before putting the final two candidates to the party. Many MPs believe she is simply not up to the job and that her aggressive campaign has alienated even some of the most loyal Conservatives.

If she fails to impress them in the next few weeks, Truss could find support for her plans lacking in parliament -- and if the past five years have taught us anything, it's that this can be the kiss of death for a sitting prime minister.

Source: CNN

Putin backs foreign policy doctrine to 'protect ideals of Russian World'

Vladimir Putin has approved a 31-page "humanitarian policy" which says Russia should "protect, safeguard and advance the traditions and ideals of the Russian World".

The foreign policy concept of a "Russian World" is a notion that some have used to justify intervening abroad to support Russian speakers, such as in parts of Ukraine, Sky News reported.

It means that the idea is now enshrined in official policy, though it was presented as a soft power strategy.

The new policy stated that Moscow should further deepen its ties with the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic - two breakaway entities in eastern Ukraine, where the war continues to rage.

It also said it should strengthen its links more with Abkhazia and Ossetia, two Georgian regions recognised as independent by Moscow after its war against Georgia in 2008.

And the policy stated Russia should increase cooperation with Slavic nations, China and India, and further push its ties to the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

West Slavs are in Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, East Slavs are in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, while South Slavs are in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Slovenia.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, a number of Eastern Bloc countries broke away from the USSR and became independent, but around 25 million ethnic Russians found themselves living outside Russia.

Advertisement

Putin called the collapse of the USSR the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe" and for years he has been highlighting what he sees as the tragic fate of those millions.

It was one of his predecessors, Mikhail Gorbachev, who failed to prevent the break-up and who died aged 91 last week.

Moscow has continued to view the former Soviet lands, from the Baltics to Central Asia, as its legitimate sphere of influence - a notion strongly resisted by many of those countries as well as by the West.

The new policy said the Russian Federation "provides support to its compatriots living abroad in the fulfilment of their rights, to ensure the protection of their interests and the preservation of their Russian cultural identity".

It said that Russia's ties with its compatriots abroad allowed it to "strengthen on the international stage its image as a democratic country striving for the creating of a multi-polar world".

WORLD HEADLINES

One suspect in Canadian mass stabbings found dead, another still on run

Canadian police found one of the suspects in a mass stabbing spree dead while the other suspect, his brother, was still on the run and may be injured, officials said.

The brothers Damien and Myles Sanderson are suspected of murdering 10 people and wounding 18 in a stabbing rampage that devastated an indigenous community in Saskatchewan on Sunday.

China approves world's first inhaled Covid vaccine

China has become the first country to green-light an inhaled Covid-19 vaccine, paving the way for potential use of the needle-free product in the country, where suppressing the spread of Covid-19 remains a top priority.

Israel recalls envoy to Morocco over sexual harassment probe

Israel has recalled the head of its liaison office in Morocco over allegations of sexual harassment and financial irregularities, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

David Govrin was called back after a probe was launched into the allegations against him a few weeks ago, the ministry said in a statement.

Pakistan's biggest lake bursts its banks

The retaining wall of Pakistan's largest lake burst on Tuesday after months of heavy rains, threatening hundreds more villages downstream and forcing thousands more from their homes.

The Pakistani government engineered two intentional breaches of Lake Manchar's retaining wall over the weekend in an effort to ease the pressure on the structure, but an irrigation official told The Washington Post that the wall began to crack Tuesday as water levels continued to rise.

Russia should not be branded terrorism sponsor, Biden says

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Monday that Russia should not be designated a state sponsor of terrorism, a label Ukraine has pushed for amid Russia's ongoing invasion, while Moscow has warned it would rupture U.S.-Russian ties.

The Kremlin positively assesses the fact that Biden has spoken out against recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Taiwan offers to send rescuers to China

Taiwan's government expressed its condolences to China on Tuesday for an earthquake in Sichuan province and said it was ready to send rescuers, in a sign of goodwill to Beijing despite weeks of military tensions.

Taiwan's presidential office said President Tsai Ing-wen had offered her "sympathy and concern" after Monday's quake in southwestern China which killed at least 46 people.

Aras Geopark one step closer to UNESCO registration

From page 1 ▶ The highest point in the Jolfa region is the Kiyamaki mount with 3,347 meters and the lowest points include the northern boundary and the Aras River valley with 720 to 390 meters.

The property has an appropriate geo-tourism attraction, because of its mountainous landscapes, outcropping of different sedimentary and igneous rocks, diversity in tectonic structures, semi-cold and semi-arid climate, and diverse flora and fauna.

The UNESCO-designated Qeshm Geopark in the Persian Gulf embraces a wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. Qeshm Island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins, and turtles as well.

A UNESCO definition of the global geopark is a unified area with a geological heritage of international significance.

Experts say that geoparks help promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies with local communities. Moreover, they yield records of past climate changes and are indicators of current climate changes as well.

Natural properties in West Azarbaijan approved as national heritage

TEHRAN—A selection of eight natural properties across West Azarbaijan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Tuesday in separate letters to the governor-general of the northwestern province, CHTN reported.

Waterfalls, hot water spas, and a cave are among the properties added to the list.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Borujerd's historical core holds potential to become tourism hub

TEHRAN—The historical core of Borujerd could be developed into one of the main tourism hubs of the western Lorestan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A number of historical structures, especially old mansions, give the 270-hectare historical core of Borujerd great potential to become a tourism hub for the region, Ata Hassanpur explained on Tuesday.

There are, however, obstacles and issues in this regard that should be addressed and removed, the official added.

A region of raw beauty in western Iran, Lorestan was once inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Moreover, Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

Lorestan is famed for its ancient Luristan Bronzes for its eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, dating from this turbulent period.

Historically speaking, Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Mysteries of ancient language unraveled in Iran

TEHRAN – A team of linguists has recently unveiled mysteries of an ancient language in an attempt to decipher and translate an ancient Elamite script found in southern Iran some 120 years ago.

The writing system was reportedly used by people who lived in southern Iran between 2300 and 1800 BC.

A group of researchers from Iran and France claims to have deciphered important sections of the Linear Elamite script recovered from various Iranian archaeological sites over the past 120 years.

The claims have reportedly been met with a fair amount among academics specializing in the field of ancient language decoding, according to Ancient Origins.

The first artifacts inscribed with this language were discovered during an excavation project in 1903 on an ancient acropolis in Susa, Iran.

A team of experts led by French archaeologist François Desset, now teaching at the University of Tehran, has analyzed eight well-preserved inscriptions found on silver cups, seeking to explain their full meaning.

They did this by comparing the ancient text with cuneiform texts from the same period that were written in a deciphered Middle Eastern script.

The cuneiform inscriptions contained the names of the rulers, lists of their titles, and descriptions of what they accomplished.

Scholars learned from the results of previous decipherments that Linear Elamite referred to some of the same rulers, and had hoped to translate the written samples using cuneiform texts as their model.

A UNESCO World Heritage, Susa was once the capital of the Elamite Empire and later an administrative capital of the Achaemenian king Darius I and his successors from 522 BC.

Quake inflicts no harm to historical sites in Hormozgan

TEHRAN—A medium-sized 5.4 magnitude earthquake that struck the city of Fin in Hormozgan on Monday caused no damage to historical structures and sites across the southern Iranian province.

Based on field visits by experts of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, no damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, the provincial tourism chief has said.

"However, experts are on standby to inspect the possible harms to historical sites and aging structures of the province," Sohrab Banavand explained on Tuesday.

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

its warm and hospitable people.

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

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

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

Hengam Island has scenery of rocky shores, a serene sunset, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

Police recover ancient objects, coins in southwest Iran

TEHRAN – Police forces in charge of protecting cultural heritage have recently recovered 78 ancient objects and coins from the home of a suspect in southwest Iran.

"In this operation, 78 objects, comprising 62 coins and other relics made of metal and stone were seized," a local police commander in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday.

The illegally-kept objects were found when policemen searched the house of a suspect in Ramshir county of Khuzestan province, the report said.

The suspect was surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial, the commander added.

About 220 CE the Sasanian dynasty of Iran introduced the

concept of thin flan coins. The Muslim conquest of Persia, also known as the Arab conquest of Iran, led to the fall of the Sasanian Empire of Iran (Persia) in ca. 651 and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion. The rise of Muslims coincided with an unprecedented political, social, economic, and military weakness in Persia.

The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued silver dirhams that were copies of late Sasanian coins (mostly of those of Khosrow II; with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

Situated at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

The culturally-rich province is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

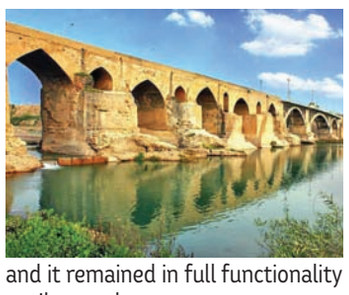
Ancient arch bridge undergoes restoration

TEHRAN–An ancient arch bridge dating back to roughly 1,700 years ago in Dezful, southwestern Khuzestan province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 24 billion rials ($80,000) has been allocated to the project, Mohammad Hossein Arastuzadeh said on Monday.

The restoration of the bridge, which is one of the top tourist attractions of the region, is being carried out under the supervision of experienced restorers and cultural heritage experts, the official added.

Best known as the Dezful bridge, the massive monument on the Dez River is believed to be the oldest still-standing bridge in the world



and it remained in full functionality until recently.

The Sassanid-era structure has been extensively repaired and renovated in various eras to ensure its functionality and preservation. Nowadays, cars are no longer allowed to pass over the structure due to its historical value and fragility.

It is said that the monument was built by Roman prisoners of war after suffering a defeat at the hands of the Sassanid king Shapur I the Great, who reigned over Persia from around 240-270 CE.

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

Arch bridges can be classified into deck arch bridges (featuring arches below the deck) and through arch bridges (those with arches above the deck, generally tied arches). In all arch bridges, structural difficulty can be found in the minimization of the misalignment of the arch axis and the line of thrust, as well as sufficient bending and buckling resistance. General design recommendations focus principally on the arch-to-span ratio, the arch and deck slenderness, and the number of hangers or piers.

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

Piranshahr in need of archaeological museum: official

TEHRAN—Piranshahr, which is home to tens of ancient sites, needs an archaeological museum, the tourism chief of the northwestern Iranian city said on Monday.

"Archeological excavations, conducted in 41 historical sites of Piranshahr, have yielded artifacts dating from the Iron Age and other prehistoric eras... and this indicates the need to establish an archaeological museum in this city," Soleyman Bashiri said.

"Government funds should be allocated to resume archaeological excavations," the official said.

Azarbaijan has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth, the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers.

The Azarbaijan region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now the Amu Darya) on the east.

Home-based handicrafts businesses in Ardabil receive support

TEHRAN—Over 650 eligible crafters, who are running home-based businesses across the northwestern province of Ardabil, have received financial support from the government, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Some 270 billion rials ($900,000) has been paid to eligible crafters in loans to develop their businesses, Tohid Delavar-Qavam explained on Tuesday.

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

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

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.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at $120 million during the first eleven months of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020–February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

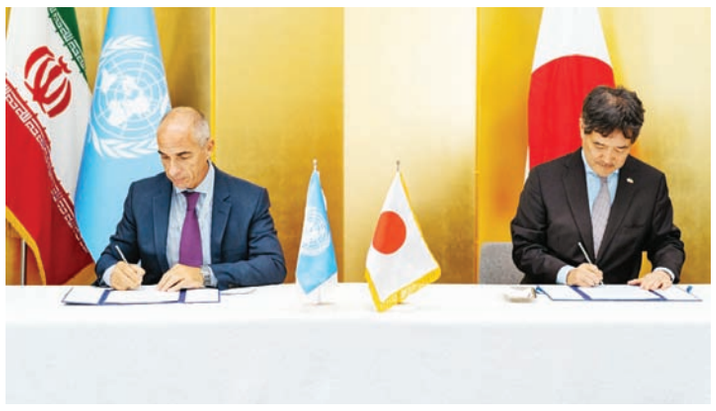
Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Japan funds project to overcome water shortage in Chabahar

TEHRAN– The Government of Japan has donated $2.8 million to strengthen the resilience of local communities against water shortage in Chabahar, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

During recent years, challenges caused by prolonged and continuous droughts in Sistan-Baluchestan from water reduction in the north to severe decline of groundwater resources in the central and south, have affected the entire province, including in the Chabahar Area. Providing clean water supply infrastructure is a priority for the region and essential to the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery efforts.

In a signing ceremony held on September 6 at the Embassy of Japan, Japanese Ambassador to Iran Kazutoshi Aikawa, and The United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Iran, Claudio Providas, signed a project document entitled "Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable local communities against water shortage thorough provision of desalination system and effective use of water in agriculture in Chabahar Area."



The project will be implemented jointly and in close collaboration with the ministries of interior, agriculture, and Sistan- Baluchestan Governorship in the target area for a duration of three years.

The project will provide sustainable and clean water and energy solutions, including water-efficient agricultural management practices for sustainable livelihoods in target communities. Improved access to clean water and energy can reverse current migration trends in the province and can facilitate the creation of employment and self-employment opportunities.

"There are opportunities that can significantly impact the socio-economic development in Chabahar Area. This can be achieved through the development of renewable energies, the introduction of innovative water-efficient and climate-smart agricultural practices and technology as well as promotion of sustainable livelihoods," said Claudio Providas.

He added: "Japan is a longstanding partner of UNDP in Iran, and we are grateful to the People and Government of Japan for this generous contribution."

"In the field of sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation, Japan has been continuously supporting UNDP's project via local community participation since 2014 and I do believe that the knowledge and experiences gathered through all these years will be useful for the successful implementation of this new project," the Japanese envoy said.

UNDP is committed to supporting the Government of Iran in the implementation of projects aimed at building resilience and betterment of local communities' livelihoods based on sustainable solutions in the areas of agriculture, water resources management, and renewable energies.

> The project will provide sustainable and clean water and energy solutions, including through water-efficient agricultural management practices for sustainable livelihoods.

Association of women benefactors set up in Welfare Organization

TEHRAN – The association of women benefactors has been formed in the Welfare Organization, said, Mojgan Rezazadeh Kavari, an official with the Organization.

Currently, a total of 9,660 benefactors are cooperating with the Welfare Organization, she said, adding that the association of women benefactors is working in the fields of health and medical treatment, business, education, and culture, ILNA reported.

Referring to the International Day of Charity, which is held annually on September 5, the official said that the benefactors provide low-income families with treatment and rehabilitation costs, medicine, food, home appliance, educational equipment, as well as judicial support.

> The association of women benefactors is working in the fields of health and medical treatment, business, education, and culture.

The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

In the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015, the United Nations recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, according to the UN website. The Agenda also calls for a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It also acknowledges the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the Agenda can be grouped into six critical areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. They have the potential to transform our lives and our planet by providing the framework needed for philanthropic institutions to enable all people to contribute to the betterment of our world.

Arbaeen pilgrimage helpful in promoting Iran's medical experience: health minister

TEHRAN – Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said the Arbaeen pilgrimage will be very helpful in promoting Iran's medical experience to the neighboring countries.

Moving on the path of health diplomacy is among the ministry's prioritized programs, IRNA quoted Einollahi as saying on Monday.

Considering that the international conference on the Arbaeen pilgrimage was held with the participation of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, we will boost cooperation with these neighboring countries in the field of health, he added.

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

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

This year Arbaeen falls on September 17.

Before the outbreak of coronavirus, some 2 to 3 million Iranians attended annually in the Arbaeen march. However, last year, the rituals were held virtually to avoid the transmission of the disease.

The fifth international conference on the Arbaeen pilgrimage was held in Tehran on August 23.

The event is an opportunity for all thinkers, especially those who have done research on this event, to explain the various social, political, spiritual, and religious aspects of this great event.

"Arbaeen Lifestyle", "transnationalization and changes in the Islamic world", "Arbaeen and identity", "Arbaeen is a response to spiritual, psychological and educational needs", "Arbaeen: culture, art, and media", "Arbaeen: groups and social capital", "Pathology of Arbaeen", and "human sciences and Arbaeen" were among the main topics discussed in the international conference.

In April, Einollahi said that developing international health relations with different countries and organizations is one of the government's strategies.

Fortunately, the young generation of Iran has reached great achievements by creating knowledge-based firms.

"Health affects all political, social and economic dimensions of societies," he said, adding, therefore, we suggest to all foreign embassies to plan and act specifically for health by appointing a health deputy in their system.

Iran is ready to cooperate with other countries in holding international conferences in the field of health, he concluded.

Health development

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

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

Medical tourism

Iran attracted more than 125,000 international patients who received medical services during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year which started on March 21.

"A total of 125,231 health tourists arrived in Iran during the first three months of the year," IRNA reported.

"The majority of those travelers came from Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Persian Gulf littoral states," the report said.

In August, President Ebrahim Raisi said the Islamic Republic is a regional hub for medical tourism. "Our scientific and medical ranking is acknowledged by international officials," he added, saying Iran can rightly claim that it is a hub of health services.

Iran has a perfect position in the region and the world in terms of medical sciences as many Iranian cities are considered "health hubs," Raisi said.

According to available data, Iran hosts an average of one million medical tourists each year. "About one million medical tourists, mainly from the neighboring countries, arrive in Iran annually," Mohammadreza Tarjoman who presides over the Health Ministry's tourism office, said in April.

"The majority of inbound medical passengers come from the neighboring countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan," the official said. Talking about hospitals and clinics, he said a selection of 200 Iranian medical centers have permission to accept foreign patients.

40 technology parks to develop knowledge-based activities

From page 1 ▸ The creation of 40 new technology parks within the next five years is one of the missions assigned by this law to the said ministry.

Also, in order to develop one thousand workshop units and research and development places for knowledge-based companies, the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization takes action from the available resources and within the framework of laws and regulations.

Knowledge-based ecosystem

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

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

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.

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

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year (March 2022-March 2023) as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating". Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

In this regard, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

21m Iranians undergone hypertension control test

TEHRAN – Over 21 million Iranians have so far undergone blood pressure test and the data have been registered by the national campaign for controlling hypertension, deputy health minister Alireza Raeesi announced.

Some 404,000 individuals have registered their blood pressure information on the ministry's network, Raeesi said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

He further noted that blood pressure stations also have measured the blood pressure of about 5.4 million people nationwide, adding 13,751 stations have been stablished across the country.

So far, some 15.1 million information also have been submitted on the integrated health system, he also added.

He further called on the residents aging 30 or above to refer to the stations in order to find out whether they are hypertensive, and start early intervention.

ثبت فشار خون بیش از ۲۱ میلیون نفر در بسیج ملی کنترل فشارخون

معاون بهداشت وزارت بهداشت از ثبت فشار خون بیش از ۲۱ میلیون نفر از هموطنان طی اجرای بسیج ملی کنترل فشار خون خبر داد.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر علیرضا رئیسی افزود: ازمجموع این تعداد بیش از ۴۰۴ هزار نفر فشار خون خود را درسامانه خوداظهاری فشارخون بسیج ملی کنترل فشارخون ثبت کردند.

وی در ادامه گفت: بیش از ۵ میلیون و ۴۰۰ هزار مورد فشار خون هموطنان در ایستگاه‌های ثابت و سیار سنجش فشار خون در سراسر کشور ثبت شده است.

دبیر شورای راهبری بسیج ملی کنترل فشار خون افزود: از مجموع ثبت‌های انجام شده بیش از ۱۵ میلیون و ۱۰۰ هزار مورد در سامانه یکپارچه بهداشت (سیب) ثبت شده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 6

New cases	1,090
New deaths	29
Total cases	7,535,272
Total deaths	144,048
New hospitalized patients	272
Patients in critical condition	788
Total recovered patients	7,310,746
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,872,903
Doses of vaccine injected	154,406,608

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Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**

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

Like your body, your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:02 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 5:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:41 (tomorrow)

Iran: Graphic arts

Part 3

Similar research in other domains of traditional graphic design is still lacking. For instance, in the case of glazed tiles from the late Qajar period to early in the second period, only the names of a few kashi designers such as Hossein Sharif, Abdolrahman, and Hossein Kashitarash are preserved, and in designing traditional cloths we have only the name of Mohammad Tariqi, who was the supervisor of zari-bafi (brocaded silk weaving) workshops at the former Department of Fine Arts (Edare-ye Honarha-ye Ziba; later developed into the former Vezarat-e Farhang o Honar).

In plaster relief work (gach-bori), the prominent designers in Tehran were Hassan Tehrani (nicknamed Nakhosh), Mohammad Alai, Asadollah Zandi, Abdokarim Navid, Abbas Eshqi, and Asadollah Borujerdi, specimens of whose works are to be found in Golestan and Niavaran palaces, the old building of the former Majles-e Shura-ye Melli (Parliament), Bagh-e Ferdows (all in Tehran), Emamzadeh Hosayn (in Qazvin), etc.

The former royal palace, Kakh-e Sefid, in Tehran contains works of other master gachbors, namely, Ostad Qazvini, Abdolkarim Shaykhan, Hossein Kashi, and Gholam-Ali and Reza Mala'ekeh.

In various kinds of illuminating manuscripts (tazhib and tash'ir), outstanding artists (from the mid-Reza Shah period to the Revolution of 1979) included Mohammad-Ali Zavieh, Abdollah Baqeri, and, particularly, Hossein Eslamian (d. 1979; among other things, he was commissioned to illuminate the Shahnameh published by the former Amir Kabir Publishing Co.).

3. Most graphic designers in this period are former students of those in the previous period, and graduates of higher schools of art in Tehran.

Prominent among them are Ebrahim Haqiqi, Hamid Noruzi, Behzad Hatam, Arapik Baghdasarian, Ahmad Sakhavar, Mahmud and Mostafa Ramazani, and Bahram Kha'ef.

Graphic art in the post-revolutionary epoch of this period witnessed two new thematic developments: the emergence of political posters, which were used by all political formations to attain their different goals, and, during and after the eight-year Iran-Iraqi war, the prevalence of politico-religious themes, mainly the following: glorification of shahadat (martyrdom) and shohada (martyrs); exaltation of some prominent religious leaders; war termed the "sacred defense" (defa-e moqaddas).

As for the form, in the field of political posters, for lack of previous tradition or experience, poster designers fell back on models from revolutionary socialist countries.

All this could be visualized in the first exhibition of political posters set up in November 1978 by the students in the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Non-Islamic political posters, however, were short-lived because of subsequent abrupt political changes. The Islamic groups began to incorporate traditional Shia themes and motifs into their own posters and other illustrative works.

Today politico-religious posters and other visual arts exhibit a tendency to crude realism incongruously mixed with traditional themes and motifs.

A host of graphic artists have sprung up who specialize in this lingering art trend. Mostafa Asadollahi, Farzaneh Taqavi, Mohammad-Ali Bani-Asadi, Manuchehr Abdollahzadeh, and Hooman Mortazavi are only a few of the revolutionary era artists.

A movie poster by Farshid Mesqali.

II. In the Islamic Revolution and Iran-Iraq war

The growth of the graphic arts in Persia was in direct proportion to the modernization of the country.

As Persia became more industrialized and assumed an increasingly significant role on the world stage, the graphic arts began to play an essential part in articulating the country's commercial, cultural, and political aspirations.

With the onset of the revolution of 1978-79 and the subsequent war with Iraq, an even greater emphasize was placed upon them and they were heavily exploited to stir and inspire the public and mobilize them for revolutionary, and later, military action.

At the time of the revolution, a large percentage of the population was still "functionally illiterate", although very much attuned to a wide range of mental and pictorial images going back centuries, and deeply rooted in the enduring features of the Shia Muslim faith, as expressed in popular beliefs and rituals.

The revolution revitalized and transformed these rituals and images and used them for its own immediate political needs. Thus the revolution was in full semiotic control of the representation of itself in different media, ranging from graffiti, posters, and murals to banknotes and postage stamps, thereby exemplifying how symbolic features can be used to mobilize a people.

No sooner was the revolution a fait accompli than the Islamic ideologues launched an all-out campaign for total control, organizing their own army of graphic artists to mobilize the general public.

For about a year and a half after the fall of the Shah, there was a flowering of arts of every kind associated with artist of various political ideologies from Constitutionalists to Communists, and embracing different styles, ranging from Socialist Realism through the beaux arts to native Persian traditions, until the secularists and leftists were, in due course, eliminated or neutralized.

The success of poster art in instilling revolutionary preparedness and the notion of sacrifice in Persia was so great that it seems to have overshadowed even the role played by poster art in the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The Persian examples are further proof that posters constitute the most revolutionary genre in the graphic arts.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Art Garden to host exhibition of Ruholamin's Ashura-themed paintings

Frome Page **1** ▸ He unveiled a picture of the painting on his Instagram earlier in August. The 110 X 130-centimeter oil painting shows the Imam embracing Roqayyeh before going to the battlefield while his horse, named "Zuljinah", and the enemy forces can be seen in the background.

The collection also includes "The Sky Fell Down", "The Farewell", "After Abbas (AS)", "Are You My Brother?", "Monastery of the Monk" and "Beginning of Silence".

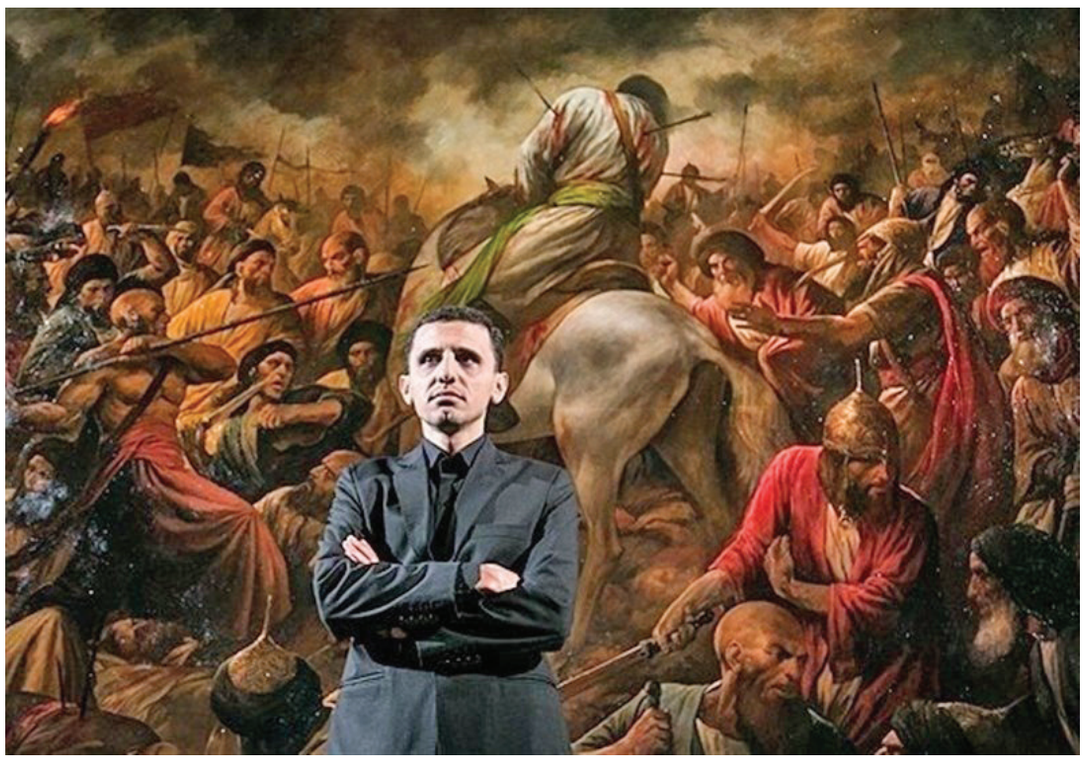
"The Sky Fell Down", featuring the last moments of the life of Imam Hussein (AS), is a highlight of the collection.

The painting depicts the Imam on his horse, severely injured by arrows, while the enemy is waiting to bring down the Imam.

Ruholamin spent nine months doing the painting, which was unveiled at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in November 2018.

"Monastery of the Monk" is another artwork from his Ashura collection.

The painting depicts the meeting of a monk with Khawli ibn Yazid al-Asbahi, a member of Umar ibn Sad's army, when he was taking the head of Imam Hussein (AS) to Yazid ibn Muawiya, the second caliph of the Umayyad dynasty, after the Ashura event.



A file photo shows impressionist painter Hassan Ruholamin posing in front of his work "The Sky Fell Down".

The artist has also blended modern events and with stories from Islamic history in some of his works.

The exhibition will also put on view several teahouse paintings on Ashura by Abbas Bolukifar and Mohammadreza Mohammad-Hosseini.

"The Images of the Truthful" first was organized in October 2020 at the Khial Gallery of the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran.

"Zalava" picked for Lisbon horror film festival

TEHRAN – Acclaimed Iranian film "Zalava" is competing in the MOTELX - Lisbon International Horror Film Festival underway in the Portuguese capital.

Winner of the grand prize at the 36th Venice International Film Critics' Week, "Zalava" is Arsalan Amiri's directorial feature debut.

Amiri has co-written with Ida Panahandeh and Tahmineh Bahramalian the terrifying horror film, which presents a brilliant examination of faith, science and tradition based on stories told to him by his father.

In 1978, the inhabitants of a small village in Iran called Zalava claim there is a demon among them. Masud, a young gendarmerie sergeant who investigates this claim, encounters an exorcist attempting to rid the village of the demon. When he arrests the exorcist on charges of fraud, the villagers' fear and anger escalate. Masud and his love interest, a government doctor, soon find themselves trapped in a cursed house, surrounded by villagers who believe they are both possessed by the demon.

LevelK, EG Entertainment, Remain in Light, Corinth Films and PT Falcon handle sales of the film in different regions of the world.

The film was also screened at the Overlook Film Festival, a celebration of all things horror held in the American city of New Orleans in June.

Amiri also won the award for best director at the 8th Duhok International Film Festival in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

The 16th edition of the MOTELX - Lisbon International Horror Film Festival opens on Tuesday with "Bodies Bodies Bodies" by American director Halina Reijn.

Sarah DeLappe has written the screenplay based on a story by Kristen Roupenian.

When a group of rich 20-somethings plan a hurricane party at a remote family mansion, a party game turns deadly in this fresh and funny look at backstabbing, fake friends, and one party gone very, very wrong.

"Zalava" directed by Arsalan Amiri.

The festival will run until September 12 with a program full of films, workshops, masterclasses and many activities for the younger audience.

MOTELX is the only Portuguese festival member of the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF) and of Europe For Festivals, Festivals For Europe (EFFE).

Michael Ryan's "Cultural Studies" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Cultural Studies: A Practical Introduction" by Michael Ryan has been published in Persian.

Saless is the publisher of the book translated by Ahmad Fazeli Shushi.

First published in 2008, this hands-on survey introduces students to the diverse fields that comprise cultural studies, from visual culture to popular music and new media.

It can be used as a standalone text or is the perfect companion volume to Ryan's "Cultural Studies: An Anthology".

Front cover of the Persian edition of Michael Ryan's book "Cultural Studies: A Practical Introduction".

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the field, from cyberculture and digital media to fashion and new formulations of gender identity.

It includes student exercises and activities for each chapter and teaches cultural analysis through practical examples and application.

The book gives students across disciplines the tools to become practitioners of cultural studies and active cultural analysts.

Ryan is senior associate dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the School of Communications and Theater at Temple University, USA.

He has taught film for thirty years at Northeastern University, Miami University and the University of Virginia.

His books also include "Camera Politica: The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film", "Politics and Culture" and "American Film: A Short History".

He is the editor of "Politics and Culture: An International Review of Books".

He is writing a book on American film and American literature entitled "Make Believe: Political Argument in American Culture".

Golzar Ragheb: Even if it is painful, writing helps me feel better

An interview with the author of the book "Evenings of Keriskan"

The memories of Amir Saeedzadeh from his pre-revolutionary activities, memories of the years of holy defense, and memories of his captivity in Komala and Democratic prisons are all detailed in the book "Evenings of Keriskan"

*** Describe your first encounter with Amir Saeedzadeh.**

He was injured and troubled when I first encountered him in 1981 in the Bardehsour prison in Sardasht. Before being taken to prison, they gave him a pilot's suit and took him through the villages, telling the villagers that he is the pilot who kills their cattle. This caused people to hurl rocks and sticks at him. We shared a cell when they took him to prison, and despite the restrictions and worries, we grew close because we both believed in salvation.

*** Why did you choose to write down his memories?**

It was easy to trust Saeedzadeh because of his unique characteristics. He was skilled at hairdressing and cutting other people's hair while imprisoned. He stuck in my mind because he had a plan to escape and, out of a hundred people, he trusted me enough to tell me the details. Then again, he warned me that it would not be a good idea for me to escape with him since they might kill my brother out of vengeance, so I was unsuccessful in getting away.

*** How did you persevere while writing this book of bitter and painful memories?**

Even though remembering and writing about those events can be painful at times, I know that if I didn't try to preserve these memories, they would have been lost.

I therefore tried to put my pen down for a while after finishing this book. I was so impressed that there were instances when I tried to block out the information by staring at a certain location. Even still, I enjoy writing because it eventually makes me feel better despite all the suffering.