

# Albania Takes Orders From America About Iran

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## Report **T** A failed UK comeback

TEHRAN— Liz Truss, the UK's third female prime minister, made a key decision when she nominated James Cleverly as Foreign Secretary. Why is this decision significant to the West Asian region?

Truss took over as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on Tuesday, succeeding lame duck Boris Johnson, who stepped out in a defiant speech at Downing Street in London before both politicians went to Scotland to see the Queen for a power handover.

Truss, who served as Foreign Secretary in the previous government, takes office after winning the Conservative Party leadership election to replace Johnson, who resigned in July following a series of scandals. Her appointment addresses a long-standing leadership deficit in the UK as the country's worst economic crisis in decades worsens.

Truss did not even mention the West Asian region in her first speech as the new UK prime minister, implying that her foreign policy will be significantly influenced by the U.S. approach.

Cleverly, a Truss loyalist who served as a junior minister in the department for two years and as education secretary for a few weeks, has now taken Truss' hot seat. In less than five years, he will become the fifth British Foreign Secretary.

Cleverly was elected to the House of Commons in Braintree, Essex, in 2015, and served as chairman of the Conservative Party before entering FCO as a minister in February 2020. While serving as the Middle East and North Africa Minister, he managed to develop a strong reputation at the department as an effective and proactive diplomat. In fact, he was the last Middle East Minister before the position was abolished in February 2022, just two weeks before the Russia-Ukraine crisis erupted.

While Truss was distracted with the war in Ukraine, he was elevated to minister of state for Europe and North America in February 2022, thus making him the deputy foreign secretary. ▶ Page 2

## Iran Army kicks off drills in Isfahan

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army's Ground Forces announced Wednesday the start of military exercises involving various units in the central province of Isfahan.

The drills, codenamed Authority 1401, are held in Isfahan's Nasrabad region and will last for two days.

"The drills will be held for two days in the public area of Nasrabad with the presence of infantry, armored, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, airborne, electronic warfare units and with the support of air force planes," General Karim Cheshak, spokesman for the drills, told ISNA.

He added, "The aim of these exercises is to assess and raise the level of combat readiness of the Army's ground force units in the face of modern threats."

In August, all four branches of Iran's Army launched joint drone drills using nearly 150 drones of various types.

The drills lasted for two days and covered all of Iran's territories.

Rear Admiral Habibullah Sayyari, the assistant to the Army commander for coordination, had announced that during the exercises, modern drones that were produced at the Ministry of Defense in cooperation with knowledge-based companies were tested, Al Alam reported. ▶ Page 3



## Bullets instead of stones in the West Bank resistance

Under the real threat of ethnic cleansing from every point in the occupied West Bank, on top of the provocative violations against holy sites and betrayal by the international community, Palestinians have begun to conduct effective armed resistance operations.

While diversifying the methods in con-

fronting the brutal Israeli occupation and the increasing number of settlers squatting on land that belonged to Palestine not so long ago, the acts of armed resistance from the West Bank have also started to increase.

These acts of resistance are not limited to confronting the occupation's deadly raids

into Palestinian towns and villages, but also striking various targets of the occupation, including military checkpoints, illegal settlements both across the West Bank and Israel despite the policy of "mowing the lawn" pursued by the Israeli regime. ▶ Page 5

## 5-month non-oil exports to neighbors increase 27% yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran's non-oil exports to its 15 neighboring countries reached \$10.723 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) to register a 27-percent increase compared with the preceding year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

Rouhollah Latifi put the weight of the exported goods at 25.398 million tons, saying that non-oil trade with neighboring countries has had remarkable growth in terms of value and weight during the mentioned period, IRNA reported.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about

33.333 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.636 billion with its neighbors in the mentioned five months. Trade with neighboring countries accounted for 57 percent and 48 percent of the weight and value of Iran's total non-oil trade in the said period, respectively. ▶ Page 4



## Camel farming in Khuzestan

The city of Hoveyze in southwestern Khuzestan province is one of the hubs for camel farming in the country. For the time being, there are more than 4,000 camels in Hoveyze and a major part of camel farming is carried out using traditional methods.

According to statistics, from a total of 37 million camels across the globe, around 180,000 are in Iran.

## Archaeologists in Iran unearth 5,700-year-old skeleton of baby buried in wall foundation

TEHRAN – Archaeologists excavating Sialk hills in central Iran, recently made a macabre discovery: a 5,700-year-old wall foundation containing the skeleton of a baby.

"During an archaeological season currently underway in Sialk hills, we found the skeleton of a three to six-month-old baby which was buried inside the foundation of a wall," ILNA quoted the director of Sialk's cultural base as saying on Wednesday.

"The wall measures about four meters with about 80 to 90 cm high. After removing it, we

are expecting to reach a layer that is probably destroyed by an earthquake," Javad Hosseinzadeh explained.

The (skeleton of the) baby is estimated to date back to 3700 BC, the archaeologist said.

Late in August, archaeologists commenced work in a bid to unearth 6,000-year-old ruins and relics in Sialk, which was once the site of a fortified town near modern Kashan in central Iran.

"The archaeologists are currently looking for

six-thousand-year-old layers in the Sialk hills, and of course, they plan to involve ordinary people in excavations," ILNA quoted Sialk's director Javad Hosseinzadeh-Sadati as saying.

"Over the past few days, we have managed to determine the entirety of the excavation site, and after passing through this layer, which does not provide us with any specific information, we will reach the bottom layer, which is expected to provide more accurate information to archaeologists, because its soil is stronger and more intact." ▶ Page 6

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## Opinion **T**

### Behrouz Ataei's Iran in despair

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – The Iranian volleyball fans were hopeful that their volleyball team can make them proud in the 2022 FIVB World Championship, with a new generation eager to shine but the Team were knocked of the competition.

Brazil swept Iran in straight sets in Gliwice on Tuesday evening. Their outside hitter Yoandy Leal contributed the match high of 20 points towards a hard-fought 3-0 (25-17, 25-22, 25-23) victory in the last fixture of the Round of 16.

Behrouz Ataei led Iran to a title in the 2021 Asian Volleyball Championship but he has yet to prove himself in the world stage.

Under his leadership, Iran finished in seventh place in the 2022 Volleyball Nations League last month and many fans and experts were hopeful that his team will show more eye-catching performance in the world championship, but the team were eliminated from the competition following a poor performance against Brazil.

Ataei's team had lost to Brazil 3-0 (30-28, 25-23, 25-19) in Week 2 of 2022 VNL in late June but they played well against their powerhouse rivals.

Amin Esmaelnezhad scored 15 points for Iran in that match but he earned just three points Tuesday night.

Iran setter Mohammadtaher Vadi was far from good enough in the competition.

Iran volleyball federation has fully supported Ataei and his men so far but they didn't live up to expectations in the world championship.

The team must fix their weaknesses as soon as possible since the world championship shows that many countries have progressed in the sport over the past years.

## Chaniartoon picks 19 Iranian animated movies for 2022 competition

TEHRAN – The Chaniartoon International Comic & Animation Festival has selected 19 short Iranian animated films to screen at its sixth edition, which is underway in the Greek cities of Chania and Crete.

The highlights of the Iranian lineup are "Where the Winds Die" by Pejman Alipur, "The Wet Mirror" by Amir-Hushang Moeini, "The Sprayer" by Farnush Abedi and "Sympathy Syndrome" by Maral Alizadeh.

"Where the Winds Die" is about Iraq's chemical attack on the Iranian town of Sardasht in 1987.

Iran bombarded Sardasht in West Azerbaijan Province with chemical weapons on June 28, 1987, killing over 1,000 and injuring over 8,000 civilians, many of whom were permanently disabled. ▶ Page 8

## A failed UK comeback



From page 1 ► According to a senior Foreign Office official who spoke to The National, it would be "a day or so before an announcement would unfold," but "yes, the office (of Middle East Minister) will be restored."

Truss attempted to enhance relations with Persian Gulf Arab countries while acting as Foreign Secretary. On December 20 last year, she hosted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait, the UAE assistant minister for political affairs and permanent representative to the United Nations, and the Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) at Chevening House.

Despite attempts, the United Kingdom, like any other geo-strategically vital region, has long lost touch with the West Asian region.

The United Kingdom has maintained a farcical foreign policy method that mimic every step made by the United States. West Asia is no different.

Johnson recommended his successor to "stay close to the Americans" in his farewell speech to the UK parliament.

Following the May 2021 attack on Gaza, the Johnson administration also opposed an International Criminal Court (ICC) probe into Israeli war crimes.

To compensate for Brexit trade losses, armament sales to the Persian Gulf Arab states were increased during the Johnson-Truss administration, and Britain has obediently followed suit as the Biden administration fails to re-establish the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran.

After taking over as Prime Minister after two years as Foreign Secretary, Johnson primarily strengthened the UK's partnerships in the region, although his tenure was also distinguished by a number of perceived unforced errors.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Jeremy Corbyn's reputation as a fervent defender of the Palestinians, as well as the party's long-running controversy over antisemitism claims, provided adequate opportunity for Johnson's government to demonstrate its pro-Israel qualifications.

Johnson's government announced in November 2021 that it would classify the Palestinian movement Hamas as a terrorist organization in its entirety in the UK, having previously only done so for its military arm.

The new rule stated that "members of Hamas or anyone who solicit support for the group may face up to 14 years in prison," with Home Secretary Priti Patel stating that it was critical for combating antisemitism in the UK.

Human rights groups criticized Johnson's friendly relations with the Persian Gulf states, particularly his government's continued support for the Saudi-led coalition's assault on Yemen.

The UK mainly sold billions of pounds of arms to the coalition while the war turned Yemen into the world's worst humanitarian calamity, according to

the UN.

Johnson arrived in Saudi Arabia on the same day that the kingdom murdered more than 80 inmates on his final tour to the region before announcing his retirement.

"It is not acceptable to use Russia's war crimes to justify trading blood for oil somewhere else," Reprise head Maya Foa stated at the time.

Truss is regarded as Johnson's foreign policy heir. Many prominent Conservatives who aspired to become foreign secretary argue that Cleverly's nomination is "planned so that Liz can stay foreign secretary while based in No. 10 (Downing Street)," implying that the new prime minister prefers to make decisions for herself.

Cleverly is viewed as a "safe pair of hands" by British political experts when it comes to foreign policy matters, therefore the notion is valid. If true, it implies the continuance of a farcical show of foreign policy in the region, as well as a carbon-copying U.S.

In a report published in 2017, the British parliament called for re-evaluating London's West Asia foreign policy.

"The House of Lords International Relations Committee today publishes a report which calls for a major re-shaping of UK policy in the Middle East and questions some of the assumptions and attitudes which have underlain both UK and Western policy for more than a century," the report said.

"Pointing to the current uncertainties of American Middle East policy, to its 'mercurial' approach to the region and to the decline in U.S. reliance on Middle Eastern energy sources – and also to the fragmentation of power and the violence of conflicts that have devastated the area – the Report urges fresh thinking from the UK on how it relates to this new Middle East of instability and turmoil. It observes that the outcomes of the Arab Spring mostly disappointed, and in some instances surprised and wrong-footed the world and the policy-shapers, in the UK as elsewhere," it continued.

In its suggestions, the parliament said, "There can no longer be automatic reliance on American leadership, or the direction of its policy, in the Middle East region."

"The UK may find its stance diverging increasingly from Washington on vital issues such as the Israel-Palestine two-state solution and the importance of the Iran nuclear deal, which the report analyses in detail," it continued.

"The UK should work on a rapprochement with Iran despite US policy. The UK should work with European partners to ensure the stability of the Iran nuclear deal even if this is in opposition to the US. The UK and its European partners should consider active measures to ease restrictions on banks lending money for investment in Iran to help develop new trade relationships. Without this a strategic opportunity will be lost as Iran looks instead to China and Russia," the committee suggested.

The report was issued during Johnson's tenure as Foreign Secretary. However, his decision to disregard these ideas and follow in the footsteps of the United States demonstrates that there will be no real shift in the United Kingdom's actions in West Asia.

that he had no chance to speak with or contact his lawyer and that all connection with him had been severed.

Despite Nouri's assertion that he does not speak Swedish, the authorities did not attempt to translate the judgment for him into Persian and instead delivered the verdict in Swedish.

It is important to note that the Swedish court held the hearing based on the evidence of over 60 members of the terrorist MKO group who said that Nouri had worked as a prison guard nearly 40 years ago.

None of the witnesses were permitted by the court to testify in favor of the Iranian citizen.

Nouri said in an audio recording dated a few weeks ago that he had been abused while in detention and that, despite having eye difficulties, he had been denied medical treatment.

He also berated human rights groups for failing to support him and provide him the opportunity to share his experiences.

TEHRAN— Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, said on Wednesday that Iran has advanced in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), and has no other alternatives other than working on space programs.

Hajizadeh made the remarks during the visit of the chancellor, professors and highly talented students of Khajeh Nasiruddin Tusi University to the IRGC Aerospace Force National Science and Technology Park.

He said cooperation between universities and defense industry has been underway since the Sacred Defense era in a way that the first mapping group in the missile field during the Sacred Defense was from Khajeh Nasiruddin Tusi University.

The Sacred Defense refers to Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s, when Saddam Hussein was ruling Iraq.

"We have achieved great success in the fields of university and defense cooperation, and we can safely say that we have gone from being an importer of barbed wire to an exporter of technology, and by crossing the borders of knowledge, we defeated the enemy from a distance of more than a thousand kilometers using artificial intelligence," he said.

The IRGC aerospace chief said this success has resulted from the bond between the universities and the IRGC.

Hajizadeh also responded to the questions of a number of professors and elites from Khajeh Nasiruddin Tusi University.

In response to a question about space knowledge, he stated that considering the realities of today's world and the horizon ahead Iran is bound to work and research on space programs.

The commander labeled this as "one of the components of power in every country," saying the results of

## We hit enemy using AI from 1000kms away: IRGC aerospace chief



these researches show themselves in various fields of agriculture, flood control and so on.

Regarding the ecosystem, human health and environment, Hajizadeh described the interaction between universities and the IRGC aerospace force and the transfer of experiences, credibility and self-confidence to the elites as highly important.

He added, "The IRGC's aerospace division has very high standards both in technical and equipment aspects. There have been many studies in this field, including reducing the output power of indigenous radars compared to the output power of non-indigenous radars that were used in the past"

The top commander further noted that university professors and talented students can prioritize practical projects and focus on them to achieve results.

Explaining the situation and

developments in the region, Hajizadeh stated that today the situation in the region is very good.

"We spent a decade full of challenges, which started with Obama's crippling sanctions, followed by escalating measures in the region, and Trump's 'maximum pressure' campaign and the brutal terror of Martyr Qassem Soleimani and the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA," he said, adding Iran successfully left behind this decade through the wise strategies of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief Ayatollah Khamenei.

"In pursuing the strategy of active resistance, the enemy suffered a heavy blow and the balance of the region has changed so that in recent years, some regimes in the region, which have been looking for an alliance with the U.S. and recently the Zionist regime with an offensive approach against Iran, have changed

their approach from offensive to defensive," Hajizadeh continued.

Today the enemy admits that the "maximum pressure" has failed and that Iran has taken over their air superiority after 80 years and become an undisputed power, the IRGC commander noted.

Referring to the cowardly assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC Quds Force, in January 2020, he said, "Trump did not imagine that Iran would take action, but when he saw that the people and officials demanded revenge, he threatened to reciprocate in case of action and attack more than 52 vital points of Iran using psycho-op. But we hit their terrorist and military base in Iraq decisively and precisely, and in fact, with the operation of Ain al-Assad, the collapse of the United States and its false hegemony has been brought forward. This incident was recorded in history as a model for other independent and free-spirited countries."

Hajizadeh emphasized that Iran's security is "indigenous" and is now at an "excellent level".

"We have gone through very difficult tasks in the field of defense and military. We are among the top 20 countries in the world and we are among the top powers in the field of drones and precision missiles. None of these accomplishments are accidental, but we achieved these with precise target-setting, systematic management, concentration and talent scouting. The universities of the country have achieved these results and with this formula the problems of the country can be solved in other fields as well and the origin of all these achievements are the universities and elites of this country. These elites are the people who must continue to work to meet the needs of the country," he concluded.

## Top army commander: Any govt cooperating with Israel will pay heavy price

TEHRAN — Major General Gholamali Rashid, Commander of the Central Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, warned on Wednesday that Iran will respond to possible Israeli regime's military moves "definitively and accordingly".

Speaking at a gathering of the commanders of the Army ground forces, Rashid said the Zionist regime is considered as the number one threat to Iran's national security.

Pointing to the official statements by the Israeli officials threatening to take military action against Iran's nuclear facilities, he said from the viewpoint of the Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters the Israeli threats against Iran's national security are evaluated based on the information, coordination and support of the United States, and the response of Iran's armed forces will be definitive and at the same level.

Major General Rashid continued, "All mercenary agents and groups and governments that cooperate with the Zionist

regime in threatening the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay the costs."

Referring to the Army's military exercise which began on Wednesday, Rashid said the commanders of the Army ground forces not only fully monitor the movements of the enemy, they also possess a very high combat readiness to use power against any aggressor.

The Army ground forces have made plans in accordance with possible future wars and anticipated threats, the commander elucidated.

The drills, codenamed Authority 1401, are held in Isfahan's Nasrabad region and will last for two days.

"The drills will be held for two days in the public area of Nasrabad with the presence of infantry, armored, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, airborne, electronic warfare units and with the support of air force planes," General Karim Cheshak, spokesman for the



drills, told ISNA.

He added, "The aim of these exercises is to assess and raise the level of combat readiness of the Army's ground force units in the face of modern threats."

In August, all four branches of the Army launched joint drone drills using nearly 150 drones of various types.

The drills lasted for two days and covered all of Iran's territories.

## Tehran following strategy to deepen ties with Latin America: Raisi

TEHRAN— President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday reiterated the Islamic Republic's objective to foster relations with nations in Latin America, particularly Venezuela.

At a meeting with Ramon Velasquez, the Venezuelan president's special representative and minister of transportation, Raisi stated that Tehran-Caracas relations are fast developing and that Iran has been a friend of Venezuela in its hard times.

Emphasizing the necessity of increasing the level of collaboration between Iran and Latin American states, given the variety of capacities available, Raisi said Iran



is serious in its policy to strengthen trade and economic connections with friendly countries.

"We are ready to expand relations with Venezuela in all areas, especially in trade, energy, technology, science and defense," the Iranian president remarked.

For his part, Velasquez expressed delight with the deepening

connections between Iran and Venezuela, highlighting the efforts made by Caracas to boost political, economic, and commercial cooperation with Tehran.

The Venezuelan official also made mention of Iran's scientific and engineering prowess and called for further cooperation between the two nations in this area.

At the meeting, Velasquez also gave the Iranian president a message from Nicolas Maduro, the president of Venezuela.

Raisi and Maduro presided over the signing of a 20-year collaboration agreement in Tehran in June, in the presence of senior

officials from the two countries, with the goal of fostering cooperation between Tehran and Caracas in a variety of fields.

Cooperation in the areas of research, technology, agriculture, oil and gas, petrochemicals, tourism, and culture were all included in the collaboration agreement.

Maduro praised the 20-year collaboration deal, saying the two parties will be able to strengthen their relationship and create a clear plan for the coming two decades.

On July 18, the president of Venezuela announced that launch of direct flights between Caracas and Tehran, highlighting the positive impact on tourism.

## Lebanese officials ask for Iran's help in supplying energy

TEHRAN — Mohammad Mokhbar, Iran's first vice president, held phone calls with the Lebanese prime minister and parliament speaker on Tuesday afternoon.

In his first conversation with Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Mokhbar appreciated the bravery of the resilient people of Lebanon.

He also stressed the importance of stability in Lebanon, stating, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will support any plan and initiative that is effective for Lebanon's political, economic and security stability and we will not hesitate to help the nation and government of Lebanon in this regard."

For their parts, Berri and Mikati both

underscored the importance of expanding and strengthening friendly relations between the two countries in all fields.

They also asked for Tehran's support in supplying energy to Beirut.

They also invited the first vice president to pay an official visit to Lebanon to strengthen the relations between the two countries.

## Iranian national detained in Sweden facing worst pressure

TEHRAN - The harshest pressure is still being applied against Iranian citizen Hamid Nouri in Sweden, where he was detained and sentenced.

Since October 2019, Hamid Nouri has been detained in Sweden. During terms of his detention, he was held in solitary confinement and denied the ability to select a lawyer, communicate with or see his family, meet the alleged witnesses, or even seek medical attention.

After being completely cut off from his family for a month, Nouri was finally given permission to speak to his wife for less than ten minutes.

He stressed that the pressure on him has increased, all of his manuscripts and books had been taken from the cell, and he had even been denied the right to study for several days. Nouri revealed these violations of rights during the brief telephone conversation, which was conducted at the presence of an interpreter and under strict security checks.

In the conversation, Nouri also made it clear

# Russia appoints new ambassador to Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali has announced that Russia has appointed a new envoy to Iran.

The new Russian ambassador, Alexey Dedov, will replace Levan Dzhagaryan, one of the longest-serving Russian diplomats in Iran.

Jalali broke the news on Twitter after meeting the newly-appointed Russian ambassador.

“Today I had a meeting with Alexey Dedov. He will soon start working as Russia’s new ambassador to Iran. Both sides emphasized that the relations between Iran and Russia are in one of the best historical periods,” Jalali said.

In early September, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed in a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian the schedule of future high-level and summit meetings, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by TASS.

“The ministers synchronized their schedules of future high-level and summit meeting,” the ministry said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry added that at the meeting the two top diplomats touched upon “pressing issues of bilateral cooperation in follow-up to the agreements of the talks between the foreign ministers in Moscow on August 31, 2022.”

“The ministers agreed to maintain close coordination on international and regional issues,” the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed.

In late August, the Iranian foreign minister paid a visit to Moscow, where he met Lavrov. In this visit, the Iranian foreign minister was tasked to



mediate between Russia and Ukraine.

Before heading to Russia, Amir Abdollahian said that a Western country had asked Iran to offer its good offices in order to put an end to the war in Ukraine.

Fars News said that the recent phone call between Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov might have been used to relay Russia’s response to the Iranian mediation.

During a press conference held with his Russian counterpart during his visit to Moscow, Amir Abdollahian said that he had discussed with him the message sent by European leaders to the President of the Islamic Republic to help with achieving a ceasefire and peace in Ukraine.

In the meeting with Lavrov, the Iranian foreign minister said that relations between Iran and Russia follow the right path and underlined the necessity of continuation and strengthening of common efforts to further expand relations in different sphere, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In this regard, he described as

significant the necessity of common work to realize and implement the agreements reached between the presidents of Iran and Russia in Ashgabat and Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian also welcomed the growing trend of trade cooperation between the two countries, noting that easing this portion of bilateral cooperation and removing obstacles and problems will pave the way for stronger trade between the two countries.

The foreign minister also underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the field of railroads and called for speeding up the implementation process of railroad and transportation projects.

Accordingly, he underlined that enhancing cooperation in the North-South transit corridor is a key priority of Iran and that the Rasht-Astara railway link project will become operational as part of the joint agreements.

Amir Abdollahian also welcomed the proposal by the Russian side for joint work on fisheries and cultural,

sports and tourism cooperation and described these topics as among the good potential for cooperation between the two states.

On regional and international issues, those that were raised by Amir Abdollahian during the meeting were the situation in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and also South Caucasus.

During the meeting, Lavrov also underlined the significance of the agreements reached between the presidents of the two countries in Ashgabat and stressed the necessity of joint efforts to implement them.

Lavrov also welcomed the all-out enhancement of bilateral ties, including trade ones, expressing hope that as a result of the increased exchange of economic and trade delegations between the two countries and the agreements reached, the two sides will further grow cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Lavrov, too, touched on such issues as energy, finance and banking, transit and transportation, railways, oil and natural gas, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and sport and described them as major areas of cooperation between the two countries.

He added that Russia is ready to strengthen bilateral cooperation in these areas in line with common interests of both countries.

Lavrov also talked about the developments in South Caucasus and reaffirmed the comments by the Iranian foreign minister on the subject, stressing Russia’s commitment to oppose any geopolitical change in the region and also change in international borders.

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

### Carlos Queiroz named Iran football coach

TEHRAN – Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz was named as head coach of Iran national football team on Wednesday.

The 69-year-old replaced Dragan Skocic in Team Melli.

Queiroz will lead Iran in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Queiroz took Iran to the 2014 and 2018 World Cup finals during an eight-year stint at the helm, the longest in the national team’s history.

Taj was elected president of the Iranian football federation last week, after previously occupying the role from 2016 to 2019.

Taj pledged to reappoint the former Manchester United assistant coach and Portugal national handler during his election campaign.

Iran will be appearing at their sixth World Cup finals in Qatar.

Iran will start their campaign against England on Nov. 21 and will also play Wales and the U.S. in Group B.

Queiroz was last in charge of Egypt, quitting in April after failed to book a place in the 2022 World Cup.

### Brazil sweep lackluster Iran in 2022 FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN – Brazil volleyball team swept past Iran in straight sets (25-17, 25-22, 25-23) in the FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship round of 16 Tuesday night.

Milad Ebadipour, Amirhossein Esfandiari and Mohammadjavad Manavinezhad earned eight points each for Iran.

Iran showed the poor performance against Egypt, the Netherlands and Brazil in the world championship.

The team, headed by Behrouz Ataei, had previously shone in the 2022 Volleyball Nations League but failed to meet expectations in the world championship.

On Thursday, Brazil will lock horns with neighbors Argentina for a spot among the last four of the tournament. Earlier on Tuesday, the Argentineans shut out Serbia to claim their ticket to the quarterfinals.

Despite the absence (for medical reasons) of star player Ricardo Lucarelli from the court, Brazil outspiked Iran with 41 attacking points against only 32 for their opponents, and that’s what made the biggest difference in the game.

The Iranian players were not competitive enough in the first set, despite the great overall performance by outside hitter Javad Manavi and middle blocker Amir Hossein Toukhteh. However, the Asian squad picked up speed and gave Brazil some hard time in the next two sets. Backup opposite Amin Esmaeilnezhad and especially outside Amirhossein Esfandiari proved key to Iran putting up a solid fight.

### Esteghlal, Paykan share spoils in goalless draw: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Paykan football teams shared the spoils in a goalless draw in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Tuesday.

The stalemate means Esteghlal drop to sixth place, three points behind IPL leaders Persepolis after five weeks.

Esteghlal were the dominant team in the match against Paykan in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium but failed to score a goal in their home match.

### Mehrdad Mohammadi parts ways with Al-Arabi

TEHRAN – Iranian international winger Mehrdad Mohammadi parted ways with Qatari side Al-Arabi.

Mohammadi joined Al-Arabi in 2020 from Portuguese team Aves and scored 12 goals in 27 matches for the team.

The 28-year-old player has reportedly been linked with a move to Al-Sailiya.

Mohammadi started his playing career in Tehran-based club Rah Ahan in 2014 and has also played in Sepahan.

### Iran were nervous in first set, Brazilian setter says

TEHRAN – Brazil volleyball team setter Fernando Kreling says that Iran were a little bit nervous in the 2022 FIVB World Championship Round of 16.

Brazil eased past Iran in straight sets (25-17, 25-22, 25-23) in Poland late Tuesday.

Outside hitter Yoandy Leal contributed the match high of 20 points.

“I am so happy! I am so glad about what we are doing,” Fernando said after the match.

“It was not easy. It was a tough match against the boys from Iran. The first set was somewhat strange for them. Maybe they were a little bit nervous, but then it was a tough game. Now we get some rest, study Argentina a lot, make some little steps at practices and that’s all,” Fernando added.

### Minister: Iran Judo fighters to attend int’l events with IOC flag

TEHRAN – The Iranian minister of sports and youth Hamid Sajadi said that the Iranian judo fighters will participate in the international events with International Olympic Committee (IOC) flag.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has announced its final decision regarding Iran’s case.

Accordingly, Iran’s judo suspension will go on for another year, which prevents Iranian athletes from participating in international events.

During the trip to Switzerland, the International Olympic Committee helped us so that the Iranian Judo fighters would not miss international events, Sajadi noted.

Sajadi added that the Iranian judokas would participate in the international Olympic quota competitions with the IOC flag so that they might be able to win the quota to attend Paris competitions.

### FIBA praises Iran basketball team

TEHRAN – Looking at Iran’s results in Window 4 and you might not be impressed, but here us out, fiba.com wrote.

Beating Japan is never easy and the 30-point loss to Australia needs context.

Iran were without Hamed Haddadi, Behnam Yakhchali, and Arsalan Kazemi in their trip down under... and they still managed to get their way back into the lead in the second half about the reigning Asia Cup champions. Not bad.

### Nekunam shortlisted for Carlos Queiroz’s assistant

TEHRAN – According to the Iranian media, Javad Nekounam is a leading candidate to be one of Carlos Queiroz’s assistants.

The current Foolad coach is one of Iran’s best young managers and would help bolster a strong coaching staff.

The football federation has decided to sack Dragan Skocic as coach of Iran football team.

Queiroz has reportedly reached an agreement with Iran.

Iran are drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

Foolad and Nekounam have not reacted to the speculations so far.

## Iran condemns deadly terror attack in Burkina Faso

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Tuesday condemned an attack by terror groups on a humanitarian aid convoy in northern Burkina Faso, which left tens of people dead and injured.

Kanaani also expressed sympathy with the government and nation of Burkina Faso as well as the bereaved families.

The governor of the Sahel region said 35 civilians were killed and 37 were wounded

when an IED blast hit a convoy carrying supplies in Burkina Faso.

“One of the vehicles carrying civilians hit an improvised explosive device. The provisional toll is 35 dead and 37 injured, all civilians,” a statement said by the governor Rodolphe Sorgho said, according to AFP.

The convoy of supplies to the restive north was escorted by the army and the incident took place between Djibo and Bourzanga, he said.

“The escorts quickly secured the perimeter and took measures to help the victims,” the statement said, adding that the convoy had left the north for the Burkina capital Ouagadougou.

At the start of August, 15 soldiers died in the same area in a double IED blast.

The landlocked Sahel state is in the grip of a seven-year-old insurgency that has claimed more than 2,000 lives and forced some 1.9 million people to leave their homes.

## Iran Army kicks off drills in Isfahan

From Page 1 ▶ The military official added, “In these drills, accuracy, armament strength, flight continuity, guidance and control capabilities, and combat capabilities of these drones will be tested.”

According to Sayyari, the joint drills of the drones by all four army units and the joint air defense headquarters took place for the first time in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman and “from

the south to the east, west, north and center of the country.”

At the time Sayyari confirmed that more than 150 drones participated in the drills. He added this number

was only a small part of the force of the drills by the four forces of the Army that carry out various reconnaissance, surveillance and combat missions.

## Albania takes orders from America about Iran

TEHRAN – In a hasty and gratuitous move, Albania severed diplomatic relations with Iran on Wednesday and ordered all Iranian diplomats and embassy staff to leave the country in 24 hours.

The apparent reason for that is an alleged Iranian cyberattack against Albanian government institutions and agencies.

The move, announced by Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama in a video statement, raised eyebrows in the world as Tehran has been on good terms with Tirana.

“The government has decided with immediate effect to end diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Rama said, adding, “This extreme response ... is fully proportionate to the gravity and risk of the cyberattack that threatened to paralyze public services, erase digital systems and hack into state records, steal government intranet electronic communication and stir chaos and insecurity in the country.”

The alleged cyberattack apparently took place in mid-July and is said to have disrupted government services and agencies.

The Albanian prime minister alleged that his government had what he called “indisputable evidence” of an Iranian role in the cyberattack.

“The in-depth investigation provided us with indisputable evidence that the cyberattack against our country was orchestrated and sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran through the engagement of four groups that

enacted the aggression,” he claimed.

But the investigation has been done with help from the United States, which is now at loggerheads with Iran over protracted nuclear talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In what appeared a coordinated move with the Albanian government, the White House National Security Council issued a statement on the alleged cyberattack and expressed solidarity with Albania. “The United States strongly condemns Iran’s cyberattack against our NATO Ally, Albania. We join in Prime Minister Rama’s call for Iran to be held accountable for this unprecedented cyber incident. The United States will take further action to hold Iran accountable for actions that threaten the security of a U.S. ally and set a troubling precedent for cyberspace,” the U.S. statement said.

The White House added, “For weeks, the U.S. government has been on the ground working alongside private sector partners to support Albania’s efforts to mitigate, recover from, and investigate the July 15 cyberattack that destroyed government data and disrupted government services to the public. We have concluded that the Government of Iran conducted this reckless and irresponsible cyberattack and that it is responsible for subsequent hack and leak operations.”

The White House statement and its coordination with the Albanian government raise suspicions about an American-

orchestrated effort to up the ante against Iran amid stalemated nuclear talks.

Over the past weeks, Iran has been involved in what can be called indirect letter negotiations with the Biden administration. That began when the European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, submitted a “final text” to Iran. So far, Iran has submitted two responses to that text, with the latest response expected to come from the White House. But the Biden administration has refused to give a response to Iran’s last response and instead chose to blame Iran for the White House’s inability to make the necessary political decisions.

Aside from the current diplomatic tensions over the Vienna talks, Albania resorting to a media campaign and giving an “extreme response” seems to be gratuitous. Because Iran has sought to keep relations with Albania away from external factors that could overshadow the relations. Iran did so despite the fact that Albania, at American urging, played host to an Iranian group that has been on the European and American terror lists until recent years.

The group in question, Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK), is implicated in assassinating 12,000 Iranian citizens, according to Habilian Association, an Iranian Human Rights NGO conducting studies on terror victims in Iran.

A 39-page report by the Association said in 2020 that since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, more than 17,000 Iranian citizens were killed by terrorist groups, of which 12,000 were assassinated by the MEK.

## 5-month non-oil exports to neighbors increase 27% yr/yr

From page 1 ▶ According to the official, Iran traded 58.140 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$42.589 billion in the mentioned time span.

Elaborating on the country's foreign trade, the official named Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, and Azerbaijan as Iran's first seven export destinations, followed by Russia, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

Latifi further said Iran imported 7.935 million tons of goods worth \$9.913 billion from its neighbors in the first five months of the current year, indicating a 15 percent growth in value, year on year.

He named UAE, Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Oman, Kazakhstan, and Iraq as the seven top sources of imports.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports stood at \$17.24 billion in the first four months of the current year (March 21-July 22), up 22 percent compared to the last year's same period.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran exported 35.656



million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned four months.

Meanwhile, some 11.159 million tons of goods valued at \$17.24 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating a 17-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same time span.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 46.815 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$34.48 billion with its trade partners in the mentioned four months, up 19 percent in terms of value.

## IOPTC inks MOU with knowledge-based company to meet technological needs



TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Pipeline and Telecommunication Company (IOPTC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a knowledge-based firm to cooperate in manufacturing high-tech monitoring equipment, IRNA reported.

Held on Tuesday, the signing ceremony of the mentioned MOU was attended by IOPTC Head Arsalan Rahimi and the head of the said knowledge-based company.

Based on the MOU, the domestic knowledge-based firm is going to manufacture smart pigs, pipeline leak detectors and breach detectors for IOPTC.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Rahimi pointed out that smart monitoring is essential for the maintenance and operation of oil pipelines, saying: "Currently, the production and manufacturing of smart pig is not done inside the country and it is hoped that with the signed memorandum, the technology of making smart pigs, leak detectors and breach detectors will become indigenized by local experts."

In pipeline transportation, pigging is the practice of using pipeline inspection gauges or gadgets, devices generally referred to as pigs or scrapers, to perform various maintenance operations. This is done without stopping the flow of the product in the pipeline.

## Iran's export to India increases 35% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export to India increased by 35 percent in the first seven months of 2022, from the same period of time in 2021, Tasnim news agency reported citing the data released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

As reported, Iran exported commodities worth \$361 million to India in the seven-month period of this year, while the figure was \$267 million in the same time span of the past year.

Fruits were the major products Iran exported to India, accounting for 26 percent of the total exported items. Iran exported \$96 million of fruits to India in the mentioned time span.

During January-July of the present year, India's export to Iran has also risen 54 percent to

stand at \$1.243 billion, while the figure was \$807 million in the first seven months of 2021.

Rice was India's major product exported to Iran in the said time, as the product accounted for 66 percent of the country's total export to the Islamic Republic.

India exported \$825 million of rice to Iran in the first seven months of this year, while the figure was \$641 million in the first seven months of 2021.

According to the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the value of trade between Iran and India stood at \$1.604 billion during January-July 2022, rising 49 percent from \$1.074 billion in the same period of time in 2021.

In late May, Iranian ambassador to India said



that Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand the bilateral trade.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express Online, Ali Chegeni said, "We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and services including all of non-oil goods and to achieve this".

# Iran, Uzbekistan draw roadmap for energy cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and Uzbekistan have drawn a roadmap to determine the framework of energy cooperation between the two countries, Shana reported.

In a meeting between Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Ahmad Assadzadeh and Uzbekistan's Acting Energy Minister Azim Ahmed Khojavey in Tashkent on Monday, the two sides discussed

the roadmap of short and long-term cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector and determined the framework of cooperation.

As reported, Assadzadeh traveled to the Central Asian country on top of a high-ranking delegation in order to make the necessary preparations for the two countries' first energy cooperation memorandum of



*Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Assadzadeh (R) and Uzbekistan's Acting Energy Minister Azim Ahmed Khojavey*

understanding (MOU) which is due to be signed at the Shanghai summit.

The representatives of the Iranian companies present in this meeting, while introducing their abilities and capacities, discussed the existing fields of cooperation with Uzbekistan, with the Acting Minister of Energy and other managers of that ministry.

In this meeting, the MOU for the development of bilateral energy cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan was also finalized.

This document is supposed to be signed by Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and his Uzbek counterpart during President Ebrahim Raisi's state visit to Uzbekistan to participate in the Shanghai Summit due on September 15-16, 2022 in Tashkent.

## Export from Kermanshah province rises 14% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, rose 14 percent in the first five of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the previous year, an official with the customs department of the province announced.

Bakhtiar Rahmanipour said that 2.597 million tons of commodities worth \$1.079 billion were exported from the province in the said time span, indicating also eight percent rise in terms of weight.

He named rebar and ironware, tiles and ceramics, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, plastic products, and disposable containers as the major exported items.

The official further announced that 4,621 tons of products worth \$15.377 million have been imported to the province in the first five months of the present year, indicating 55 percent and 58 percent drop in terms of value and weight, respectively.

He named aluminum, machine parts, and production line equipment as the major imported items.

As previously announced by the official, the value of export from Kermanshah province rose 15 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.



Rahmanipour said that 525.305 million tons of commodities worth \$2.723 billion were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate three percent annual growth, he added.

He named ceramics and tiles, rebars, iron products, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, and plastic products as the main exported items.

The official further announced that 25,804 tons of products worth \$66.351 million were imported to the province in the past year, indicating 10 percent growth in terms of value.

He named aluminum alloy, factory production line, batteries, and tires as the major imported items.

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced that the value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$20.924

billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 21 percent compared to the last year's same period.

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

Meanwhile, some 14 million tons of goods valued at \$21.665 billion were imported into the country, indicating a 19-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same time span, he said.

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

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

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

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

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

## Alumina powder production up 7% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN- Production of alumina powder in Iran rose seven percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 80,896 tons in the four-month period of this year, while the figure was about 75,396 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

As the organization has previously reported, alumina powder production increased 11 percent in the first quarter of the present year, from the first quarter of the past year.

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 62,291 tons in the three-month period of this year, while the figure was about 55,974 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by IMIDRO,

Iran has produced 230,682 tons of alumina powder in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 231,612 tons in year 1399.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

## TEDPIX falls nearly 8,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 7,975 points to 1.412 million on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, over 4.855 billion securities worth 32.278 trillion rials (about \$112.97 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 7,813 points, and the second market's index dropped 10,122 points.

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

Based on Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) data, 29.571 billion securities worth 226.63 trillion rials (about \$793.2 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 Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Recently, SEO Head 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 (ICCI) 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.

## Iran, Japan hold Seminar on Net Zero Emissions

TEHRAN - An educational seminar entitled "Introduction of Japan's policies in using hydrogen and ammonia to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050" was held in Tehran on Tuesday, Shana reported.

According to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), the seminar was attended by senior officials from both countries including NIOC's Director of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Abbas Razmi, and Head of Economic Department at Japanese Embassy in Iran Kida Yuka, as well as Masashi Watanabe, director for Fuel Ammonia, Petroleum and LNG Policy at Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry's Agency for Natural Resource and Energy.

At the beginning of the seminar, the NIOC HSE director emphasized the necessity

of managing flare gas emissions and increasing awareness about the new methods of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and their application in Iran's oil and gas industry, saying: "The main goal of this seminar is to reduce greenhouse emissions."

Stating that Iran is in the list of 10 countries emitting greenhouse gases, he announced: "Based on the plans and goals set, positive steps have been taken regarding the health of humanity; by 2050, the world will go towards zero emission of greenhouse gases."

Razmi further underlined the importance of keeping in touch with powerful institutions to be able to use new methods for net zero emissions by 2050, saying that



it is necessary to create communication and interaction for future plans in the field of reducing flare gases and solving environmental challenges and familiarizing with new methods for estimating the amount of carbon dioxide gas emissions in oil and gas production facilities.

From page 1 ▶ Last year, Palestinian media cited armed resistance operations against occupation targets amounted to 191 with the use of explosive devices at 55 operations.

During 2021, 94 Palestinians were murdered including at least 15 children who were shot dead and five women, 11,092 were injured, while 5,286 Palestinians were arrested, which at the time was the highest number of Israeli violations against Palestinians in the West Bank including al-Quds for four years.

Since the beginning of 2022 until the month of August, Palestinian media organizations have documented 413 armed acts of resistance against the occupation and settlers. According to Palestinian figures, the retaliatory armed operations have left at least 19 Israelis dead so far this year.

The month of September has also witnessed several armed Palestinian resistance acts that have left more than a dozen Israeli troops injured.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, Israeli regime forces have killed more than 90 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the start of this year and the number is rising.

A key part of the Israeli genocide campaign has been the military raids in different Palestinian towns and villages now on an almost daily basis, often resulting in confrontations and the killing or wounding of Palestinian residents but also absolute silence in the international community.

There has always been some form of resistance in the occupied territories. The region witnessed the first intifada (uprising) in the very early 2000s when the Palestinians used stones and small rocks in the face of tanks and was suppressed in a brutal manner by the occupation.

While Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip resorted to arms and triumphantly liberated the Gaza Strip and today uses tunnels and missiles to prevent the ugly head of the occupation from re-entering the coastal enclave; more Palestinians in the West Bank are now taking up arms.

The transition from rocks to armed weapons is not something surprising when the deadly, and

# Bullets instead of stones in the West Bank resistance



other inhumane, actions of the Israeli occupation are taken into account.

The factors that lead to the Palestinian explosion in the West Bank are increasing day by day. In addition to national and religious factors, which have grown significantly in recent years, the violations practiced by the occupation stand out; especially the continuation and permanent expansion of the settlement policy and the erosion of Palestinian land. In addition to the continuing stream of Palestinian blood being shed through the systematic assassination of young people.

On the national front, Palestinians feel that their national cause is going through the worst point yet as a result of political betrayal by the international community. Meanwhile, amid the occupation's attempts to desecrate everything sacred to the Palestinians, in addition to the ongoing violations at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque which are becoming extremely provocative. Palestinians feel that extremists, under the protection of the occupation forces, are working effectively and quickly to Judaize and demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Putting aside the fact that an army is raiding a village, other measures by the occupation impede the lives of the Palestinians on

a daily basis. Restrictions on the freedom of movement for example. According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the regime set up 104 temporary military checkpoints in the West Bank on top of the 108 permanent checkpoints.

Covering these actions by the occupying forces is a risky affair. The deliberate gunning down of journalists has been a talking point this year more than ever. That's perhaps because of the regime's killing of the veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh by an Israeli sniper in the Jenin refugee camp in May.

Like other journalists targeted by the regime's forces, Israel denied having shot the reporter, and only under intense international pressure did it admit that one of its troops was likely responsible for her death.

Jenin has been the heart of the resistance in the occupied West Bank. The flashpoint city has been subjected to some of the most brutal, intensive, and deadly Israeli military raids. And Jenin has responded to this unjust aggression by leading the way in the armed struggle against the Israeli military.

While the international community may choose to stay silent on the Israeli genocide against the Palestinians; the Islamic Republic of Iran has chosen not to stay silent

and on the other hand called for an armed West Bank as the only light at the end of a dark tunnel for the Palestinian people.

In 2016, the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei said "If [the Palestinians] act in a powerful way, it is possible that the other side - which is this wolfish and violent regime - will retreat, as they are looking for a truce with all their power. This means that they have become desperate. They kill people and children and they show cruelty in an excessive way. But they are desperate as well. They are in dire straits and this is why they are after a truce."

"Therefore, we believe that the West Bank should become armed like Gaza. It is necessary to show power. Those people who are interested in the fate of Palestine should do whatever they can. This is what should be done: the people in the West Bank should become armed as well. The only thing that can alleviate the Palestinians' pains is to show power. Otherwise, if we act in a tame, subservient and obedient way, nothing that is to the advantage of the Palestinians will be done and the violence that this violent, malevolent and wolfish creature is showing will not decrease."

Whoever reads the picture well realizes that Israel cannot control the state of resistance in the occupied West Bank cannot. The development of operations, from Jenin to Nablus, to Tulkarm, and finally the Jordan Valley area, is only evidence of the expansion of this successful armed struggle.

Hope is certainly not lost for the Palestinian cause, for Palestinians and their supporters who believe in a one-state solution called Palestine with al-Quds as its capital and the return of Palestinian refugees currently living in refugee camps scattered close to their country.

An end to the brutal, apartheid, bloodthirsty regime called Israeli and its punishment under international law for all the massacres it has committed since 1948. And a return to peaceful coexistence in Palestine where Muslims, Christian and Jews lived together for hundreds of years is just a matter of time. The sooner it happens, the less lives are lost.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Document seized from Trump home described foreign govt's nuclear capabilities

A document describing a foreign government's military defenses, including its nuclear capabilities, was found in the FBI's search last month of former President Donald Trump's Florida home, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The Post report, which cited people familiar with the matter, did not identify the foreign government discussed in the document, nor did it indicate whether the foreign government was friendly or hostile to the United States.

### Putin: West has fallen victim to its own sanctions



"I'm referring to the West's sanctions fever," Russian President Vladimir Putin said, speaking in the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok.

He also criticized "blatant and aggressive" attempts to "subjugate" countries that have not imposed economic restrictions on Russia.

Putin said that Western governments have fallen victim to their own sanctions imposed as punishment for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian president said U.S. dollar is declining and inflation is on the rise in the U.S. and Europe.

"I'm confident we haven't lost anything and won't lose anything. Our main gain is strengthening sovereignty," Putin remarked.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Russian leader said, "Most of the grain leaving Ukrainian ports after a Turkey-brokered deal to lift a Russian blockade was reaching the European Union instead of developing nations. With this approach, the scale of food problems in the world will only grow." He added it could lead to "an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe."

He went on to say, "Western countries are trying to preserve the former world order that's only profitable to them," accusing the entire West of "regularly violating and changing its infamous rules."

### EU to propose price cap on Russian gas



The European Commission will propose a price cap on Russian gas, alongside measures including a mandatory EU cut in electricity use and a cap on the revenue of non-gas power generators, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday.

The EU had earlier urged China and India to support a price cap on Russian oil.

"We remain skeptical when it comes to issues surrounding a gas price cap, but we are generally ready for talks in the European framework," said a spokesperson for Germany's economy ministry.

### Liz Truss's cabinet is Britain's first without a white man in top jobs



The new British Prime Minister Liz Truss has selected a cabinet where for the first time, a white man will not hold one of the country's four most important ministerial positions.

British governments have until a few decades ago been made up of mostly white men.

### Japan again warns of "necessary action" if yen's slide continues



Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki on Wednesday said the government will take "necessary action" if the trend of the weakening yen continues.

Suzuki also told reporters that he is "concerned" about the yen's rapid "one-sided" movements and that the negative aspects of the yen's weakness should be monitored.

### Truss inherently anti-Russian, Lavrov says

Incoming British Prime Minister Liz Truss has a pre-existing negative attitude towards Russia, yet under the current conditions it would be more important for London to sort out relations with its closest neighbors, including France, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference following talks with Thailand's visiting deputy prime minister.

### Trump ex-adviser expected to turn himself in after new indictment



Former United States President Donald Trump adviser Steve Bannon has been indicted in a new criminal case in New York, and is expected to turn himself in on Thursday, the Washington Post newspaper has reported.

In a statement released to reporters late on Tuesday, Bannon pledged to fight the "phony charges" which he claimed were politically motivated.

## 'We are going to drown': villagers trapped as Pakistan's largest lake overflows



"There is too much water. We are going to drown."

That was the warning from the villagers of Sehta Sehaj, where flooding caused by the overflow of Pakistan's largest lake has left many residents trapped by rising water levels and fearing for their lives.

Lake Manchar -- which has swelled to an area hundreds of square kilometers wide due to the combined effects of a heavy monsoon and melting glaciers -- breached its banks for what was at least the third time on Tuesday, leaving nearby villages under several feet of water.

Pakistani authorities are in a desperate race against time to lower water levels at the lake in Sindh -- the country's second most populous province, home to nearly 48 million people -- fearing that a full-scale breach of its banks could inundate nearby cities.

In a bid to avert that scenario, they allowed the lake to overflow twice on Sunday in an attempt to divert some of the lake's waters into less densely populated areas. But this has led to flooding in smaller villages that has affected around 135,000 people, Sindh province's irrigation minister Jam Khan Shoro told CNN on Wednesday. Shoro said the move was necessary to avoid wider flooding in

the district of Dadu, home to around 1.55 million people.

The lake also overflowed on Tuesday, in what officials said was a natural occurrence and not part of efforts to divert the water.

Shoro said officials had on Sunday tried to warn people in towns near the lake that it would overflow and had urged people to leave the area.

"We are trying our best to provide relief to the people but the scale of the disaster is so high and the number of people affected is also so high," he said. "It's nearly impossible for our government to provide everyone with shelter, food, and medicine. It's difficult."

Shoro added that the army and navy were being enlisted to help the relief efforts and authorities were communicating with elected officials in the villages.

Murad Ali Shah, the chief minister of Sindh, said Wednesday he did not want the lake to overflow but if authorities had not diverted the water, cities up to 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the lake -- such as Sehwan, Dadu and Mehar -- would have been put in danger.

While those areas have been spared, at least for now, villages nearby are bearing the brunt.

"(Our) village is submerged. There is no way to go (to it)," said Noor Mohammad Thebo, who spoke to CNN on a roadside as rapidly flowing water swirled around his ankles.

Thebo said 10 to 15 families had been cut off by the rising waters in his village near the lake and that water up to 1.5 meters (five feet) deep now covered its main access road -- making any rescue efforts a dangerous affair.

"There are no rescue teams that could help (the trapped families) and there is no way for (the families) to come out," Thebo said.

In Bachal Chana, another nearby village, resident Yar Mohammad said people had been caught completely off guard when overflowing water from Lake Manchar rushed in.

"It destroyed our crops and houses. The breach took place suddenly and we were unaware (it was about to happen.) No one had informed us," said Yar Mohammad, standing knee-deep in murky water.

Around him, cattle were almost completely submerged, with only their heads peaking through and gasping for air.

Many villagers must now choose between staying put and taking their chances with further floods or leaving their homes and seeking shelter and aid elsewhere.

New satellite images from the European Space Agency's (ESA) Sentinel Labs show how the lake has swelled over the past two months into an area covering hundreds of square kilometers following record levels of rain. What were once islands and peninsulas in the lake have disappeared and surrounding land has been swallowed up.

The satellite images also show that despite the breaches water levels at the lake remain dangerously high -- suggesting there may be more misery to come for nearby villagers.

Ghulam Murtaza, 35, from Sehta Sehaj, said the government had warned his village that it remained in danger as it was naturally downstream of the lake.

"They say that there is no other way. But it has left our area inundated," Murtaza said.

## Arbaeen ritual: ten Iranian airports to operate flights to Iraq



TEHRAN—Iran has prepared the required infrastructure to operate flights to Iraq for the religious Arbaeen ritual from 10 airports across the country.

The government has implemented other numerous measures to facilitate Iranian pilgrims' participation in the ceremonies, the government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said on Tuesday.

Furthermore, he listed a number of such measures as improving cell phone

coverage, providing free internet and various online services, and granting loans, IRNA reported.

Some 1,200 round flights to Iraq have been scheduled to be operated from the Imam Khomeini International Airport in the span of September 6 to 21, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

Arbaeen pilgrimage, aka Arbaeen trek, is a characteristic spiritual exercise in which hundreds of thousands of Shia and Sunni Muslims, even Christians and Zoroastrians, etc. from various nationalities participate.

The long treks will be destined for Karbala, where Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is laid to rest.

The event marks an end to the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10 in the year 61 AH (680 CE).

## Traditional wrestling holds potential to be World Heritage

TEHRAN—The Iranian traditional wrestling of Bachukkeh can become a World Heritage, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami has said.

It is possible to register Bachukkeh wrestling globally due to its rules and the manner in which the matches are held, CHTN quoted the minister as saying on Tuesday.

As a traditional sport, Bachukkeh wrestling has much potential due to how wrestlers dress, the special rules and the age of the sport, he added.

Bachukkeh is one of the most famous local sports in Iran and is popular in North Khorasan province. In this region, many local ceremonies, especially weddings, involve this native sport, which has an ancient history.

Though North Khorasan province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism is getting momentum.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan



in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, toward Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20 km north. Although several new buildings spoil the effect in parts of the village, Roein is considered Khorasan's answer to the well-known Masuleh and is a possible starting point for hikes to little-visited mountain villages.

# Archaeologists in Iran unearth 5,700-year-old skeleton of baby buried in wall foundation

From page 1 ► Situated halfway between Kashan and Fin in Isfahan province, Tapeh Sialk ("Sialk Hills") has yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

"Sialk is one of the most important hubs of civilization in Kashan and Iran. Due to this importance, determining the area and boundaries of this ancient site is the expertise of archaeologists and the final opinion must be announced by those experts," Isfahan's tourism chief Ahmad Danainia said earlier this month. Danainia reminded efforts underway to register the site in the UNESCO World Heritage list, saying "For the global registration of these ancient hills, its limits should be modified..."

Sialk is supposed to be a treasure trove of information about diverse subjects such as palaeobotany, palaeozoology, palaeoanatomy, diet, climate change and ancient metallurgy.



In 2019, the Louvre museum hosted an international conference on Tapeh Sialk ("Sialk hills"), which was attended by archaeologists from Germany, England, France and Iran. According to Louvre, the event was aimed to cast a new light on the ancient site some 80 years after its first excavation to lay an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of research and projects, as well as current issues of preservation and enhancement of the site.

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

Later, during the Iron Age, the local culture, represented by beautifully painted pottery, is best known through the excavation of

necropolises. This culture, which appeared new in the region, has long been identified with the Medes and fueled the debate over the arrival of new populations speaking Iranian languages from which comes modern Persian.

Several excavation projects at the site have so far been conducted, beginning with a 1933 French Louvre delegation led by Roman Ghirshman; capping with a most recent project in 2009, which was led by Hassan Fazeli-Nashli, a faculty member of the Archaeology Department, University of Tehran.

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

## Historical arch bridge in Lorestan reinforced

TEHRAN—Restoration work has been completed on the historical bridge of Chalanchulan, an arch brick monument located in the western province of Lorestan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involved strengthening, reinforcing, lightening, cleaning, and removing debris from the historical structure, Ata Hassanpur explained on Wednesday.

Due to the extra weight in the arches, the bridge could have been destroyed, so strengthening and restoration work was carried out, the official added.

Last year, a restoration project was commenced on the Qajar-era (1789-1925) bridge, which had suffered damage from heavy flooding in 2019.

With 120 meters long, Chalanchulan Bridge was built on the remains of an ancient structure dating back to the Sassanid era (224 CE to 651). It has six brick arches, and its columns are made of stone and brick. The structure was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1997.

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. Recent research has been dedicated to the shape and magnitude of equivalent geometric imperfections, fatigue detailing, erection



methods, reduction of the arch's self-weight, and new materials for arches, hangers, and ties.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period.

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

## Restoration work begins on Safavid-era bathhouse

TEHRAN—A Safavid-era (1501-1736) public bathhouse in the city of Biarjomand, north-central province of Semnan, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

The project involves repairing cracks and walls and replacing worn-out materials, Morteza Nazari explained on Wednesday.

The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

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



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

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and

which indicate the importance of the place in the pastime.

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

## Budget allocated to Khorasan Great Museum



TEHRAN—The tourism ministry has allocated a government budget for the development of the Great Museum of Khorasan, which is located in Mashhad, northeast Iran, the deputy tourism minister has said.

20 billion rials (\$67,000) has been allocated to reorganizing the museum's relics, Ali Darabi said on Tuesday.

Developing and enhancing the dynamics of regional museums, including the Great Museum of Khorasan, is a goal of the tourism ministry, the official added.

## Private investors to run historical buildings for better maintenance

TEHRAN—Over 100 historical monuments and sites across the country are planned to be temporarily ceded to the private sector with the aim of higher productivity and better maintenance, the CEO of Iran's Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places has said.

Some 30 to 35 of these monuments will be handed over to private investors through a tender process in one to two months, IRNA quoted Hossein Sari as saying on Tuesday.

Those buildings will remain under the government's ownership, however, the investors will be allowed to repurpose them into accommodation and cultural centers, within a certain period, the official added.

Considering the high number and quantity of historical buildings across the country, the government is unable to restore and revive them all,

so private investors are encouraged to participate, he noted.

Over the past couple of years, tens of historical places and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector under the supervision of the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

Affiliated with the tourism ministry, the Fund is in charge of concession with the aim of historical sites receiving better maintenance by repurposing them into thriving boutique hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, or other profitable niches.

The country boasts hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## 2,000 traditional dolls from Iran, other countries on show

TEHRAN—A selection of 2,000 handmade dolls and traditional folk puppets made by craftspeople from Iran and other countries has been put on show at a Tehran exhibition.

The five-day exhibition will be running through September 10 at the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran, Mehr reported.

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

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz,

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

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts." Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a "world city of filigree." And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject of the WCC assessment for the village.



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

# G5 expert meeting on health cooperation held in Tehran

TEHRAN – The subregional workshop for G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) on health cooperation started in Tehran on Tuesday.

Some health issues such as coronavirus are global problems, but each region of the world has its own problems in the health sector, which must be solved with the cooperation of neighbors, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said at the opening ceremony of the meeting.

In today's world, every country must monitor the health of other countries, especially its neighborhood, to ensure its health and to prevent the spread of diseases, he stated.

Before COVID, countries were not so sensitive to health and did not know its importance. After the pandemic, everyone understood that health is one of the infrastructure issues and that the social, cultural, and economic progress of societies depends on paying attention to health.

The G5 countries have numerous common historical, ethnic, geographical, and cultural ties that have existed for many centuries.

"We should be in charge of managing the health of the 300



million population of the region," he highlighted.

Some countries have removed the apparent and geographical borders in the field of health, and the G5 can expand its scope of activity beyond the official borders in order to exchange science, scientists, and students.

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

Several activities have already been taken under this initiative, with the Islamic Republic of Iran

taking responsibility for serving as its secretariat.

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

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

sions of universal health coverage are among the goals of this two-day meeting.

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

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

**Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health among the group of four countries – Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization.**

## Iran sends humanitarian aid to flood-hit Sudan



TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) sent a consignment of humanitarian aid to Sudan which has been badly damaged by flooding in recent days.

Heavy rains and flash floods have affected about 279,000 people as of September 4, according to the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), humanitarian organizations on the ground, and local authorities.

The rains and floods have destroyed at least

16,400 homes and damaged another 42,200 in 16 out of the 18 states. The National Council for Civil Defense reported in the media that 112 people died and more than 115 people were injured since the beginning of the rainy season in June.

The IRCS provided the African country with 700 tents, 1,400 rugs, 2,800 blankets, and 1,400 hygiene packages worth 50 billion rials (about \$165,000), IRCS head Pir-Hossein Kolivand said.

On September 2, The IRCS sent a shipment of humanitarian aid containing 1,000 tents, 4,000 blankets, and 2,000 mosquito nets to Paki-

stan's flood victims.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society is one of the most effective and credible international relief organizations, having the largest number of young volunteers, providing medical care in several countries, and producing pharmaceutical products, and medical and relief equipment.

President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Francesco Rocca, has appreciated the IRCS as one of the strongest communities in the world, which brings hope back to people's lives after every incident.

**The IRCS provided the African country with 700 tents, 1,400 rugs, 2,800 blankets, and 1,400 hygiene packages worth 50 billion rials (about \$165,000).**

## Royan International Congress underway in Tehran

TEHRAN – Royan International Twin Congress kicked off in Tehran on Wednesday.

The 23rd Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine and the 18th Hybrid Congress on Stem Cell Biology and Technology will run through September 9.

A total of 84 speakers, 49 of them from 21 foreign countries, will give speeches in three programs Reproductive Congress, Stem Cell Congress, and Nursing and Midwifery Symposium.

Randy Schakman, 2013 Nobel laureate and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, gave an online lecture on the topic of sorting proteins and RNA for intercellular transport.

Royan International Twin Congress has demonstrated to be one of the most successful experiences of scientific gathering in West Asia since 2000.

During these twenty years of active involvement in sharing and exchanging scientific knowledge

and expertise with renowned scientific institutes and scientists, Royan Congress has helped to form many shared scientific projects and exchanges.

Royan is a public, non-profit organization affiliated with the academic center for education, culture, and research. Established in 1991, Royan is a research institute for reproductive biomedicine and infertility treatments; and the world's leading one in both research and treatment of this field.



The institute also acts as a stem cell research leader and is one of the best clinics for infertility treatment. It has 46 scientific members and 186 lab technicians.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Literacy rate in rural areas grows significantly

The difference in literacy rate between urban and rural areas has decreased from 34.9 percent in 1976 to about 12 percent in 2019, which demonstrates a significant rise in the literacy rate of rural areas.

According to the censuses conducted between 1976 and 2016, the literacy rate of urban areas has increased from 65.5 percent to 99.8 percent. At the same time, the literacy rate in rural areas has increased from 30.5 percent to 78.5 percent.

Moreover, the country's population aged 6 and above was estimated at 71.5 million, of which more than 62 million declared themselves literate and over 8 million were illiterate. Accordingly, the literacy rate has increased from 47.5 percent in 1976 to 87.6 percent in 2016, which reached up to 89 percent in 2019.

### رشد قابل توجه درصد باسوادی مناطق روستایی

تفاوت درصد باسوادی در بین مناطق شهری و روستایی از ۳۴.۹ درصد در سال ۱۳۵۵ به حدود ۱۲.۳ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ کاهش یافته است و این رقم در سال ۱۳۹۸ به ۱۲ درصد رسیده است. بر اساس سرشماری های انجام شده بین سالهای ۱۳۵۵ تا ۹۵ میزان باسوادی مناطق شهری از ۶۵.۵ درصد در سال ۱۳۵۵ به ۹۹.۸ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ افزایش یافته است. در همین زمان نرخ باسوادی مناطق روستایی از ۳۰.۵ درصد به ۷۸.۵ درصد افزایش یافته است. بر اساس سرشماری سال ۱۳۹۵ جمعیت ۶ سال و بالاتر کشور بالغ بر ۷۱ میلیون و ۵۰۶ هزار نفر بوده که بیش از ۶۲ میلیون نفر آنها خود را با سواد و بیش از ۸ میلیون نفر خود را بی سواد اعلام کردند. بر این اساس درصد باسوادی از ۴۷.۵ درصد در سال ۱۳۵۵ به ۸۷.۶ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ رسیده و این رقم در برآورد سال ۱۳۹۸ به بیش از ۸۹ درصد افزایش یافته است.

## Iran close to eradicating illiteracy

From page 1 ▶ Also, 400,000 illiterate people are covered by the Literacy Movement every year, 50 percent of whom are functionally illiterate.

Currently, the number of illiterate people is less than one million. Now, only five out of every 100 Iranians are illiterate, Shapour Mohammadzadeh, head of the Literacy Movement Organization said.

According to the latest census, the literacy rate is 96.2 percent, which increases by 0.5 percent every year. Now the distribution of illiteracy in the provinces is very high, in some provinces one illiterate can be found every 20 square kilometers.

Mohammadzadeh expressed hope to soon celebrate the eradication of illiteracy in the provinces where the literacy rate is 98 percent. Now 50 percent of the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization are focused on consolidating and transferring literacy so that there is no return to illiteracy.

Referring to the gender gap in literacy rate, he said the results of the census conducted between 1976 and 2016 show the gender gap in literacy rate has decreased from 23.4 to 6.8 percent and in 2020 reached less than 6.1 percent.

By allocating about 80 percent of literacy activities to girls and women, especially in rural areas, the literacy index among women has increased more rapidly, he said, adding that the literacy rate of women before the revolution was 26.2 percent in the age group of 10 to 49 years, which has now reached 90 percent, he said.

Currently, 332,000 foreign nationals are covered by the movement, and in total, 830,000 for-

eign nationals have become literate, he stated.

According to statistics, about 98.13 percent of school-age children are studying and less than 2 percent are out of school.

A plan is also being implemented with the aim of raising the literacy index and the level of awareness of the country's nomadic community in coordination with the Nomadic Affairs Organization of Iran.

Since its inception, the project has been able to educate more than 314,000 nomadic women and girls under the auspices of literacy courses by empowering thousands of literate educators in nomadic and rural communities.

### International Literacy Day

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda toward a more literate and sustainable society.

Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 771 million young people and adults lacking basic literacy skills today.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, nearly 24 million learners might never return to formal education, out of which, 11 million are projected to be girls and young women.

This year's International Literacy Day will be celebrated worldwide under the theme, Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces, and will be an opportunity to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all.

## Tabriz plays host to newest house of innovation

TEHRAN – The 80th house of innovation aiming to expand innovative services and products, strengthen cultural and creative industries, and help facilitate and accelerate the formation of creative companies was inaugurated in the city of Tabriz, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, on Tuesday.

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

In October 2021, Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, stated that there are currently about 1,400 creative companies operating in the country.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology also supports the establishment of innovation houses in other countries to develop the export of knowledge-based products.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard over the past years, with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the Iranian houses of innovation have been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

These centers have already been set up in

countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Kenya, Armenia, and Iraq.

By supporting innovative ideas, and holding technological and innovative events, the centers will be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

The centers are mainly formed with the investment and support of the private sector to provide the necessary infrastructure for their exports through innovation houses.

Mehdi Ghalehnoei, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, said in February that in the past Iranian calendar year which ended on March 20, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and in the current year, the figure seems to reach up to \$2 billion.

Africa, neighboring countries, Southeast Asia and Eurasia are our export target priorities, and we hope to create Iranian innovation and technology in all these areas, he added.

Also, in order to provide technological solutions to national challenges, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

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

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 7

New cases	945
New deaths	37
Total cases	7,536,217
Total deaths	144,085
New hospitalized patients	243
Patients in critical condition	741
Total recovered patients	7,311,837
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,884,386
Doses of vaccine injected	154,444,179



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
 Email: [info@tehrantimes.com](mailto:info@tehrantimes.com)  
 Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
 Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
 Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
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**GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

That knowledge which remains only on your tongue is very superficial. The intrinsic value of knowledge is that you act upon it.

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:13:02 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 5:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:42 (tomorrow)

## Iran: Graphic arts

Part 4

However, this form of communication remained virtually unknown in Persia until 1941, when it came by way of the Allied Occupation following the exile of Reza Shah.

Since French culture was the dominant foreign culture in Persia into the mid-1950s, posters came to be known as afish (from the French affiche); later when English became prevalent, afish became the poster.

The real explosion of poster art took place after the departure of the shah in January of 1979. Until that time, the major thrust of revolutionary art had been in the form of graffiti dashed off on walls along the streets.

Quite apart from the other dangers involved, the presses needed for the production of posters were government owned.

Traditional Persian houses are separated from the streets by high walls, where graffiti, murals, and posters can easily be scrawled. Where there were no walls, billboards were erected.

Artworks were also carried in demonstrations. In short, the country was saturated with visual propaganda. Even words were turned into graphic art in the form of calligraphy.

A drawing by the master graphic artist Kazem Chalipa, depicts the revolutionary struggle waged with paint, ink, and blood on the walls of Persian towns.

This descriptive portrayal of the Black Friday (Jom'a-ye Siah) Massacre (September 8, 1978) is in the style of Socialist Realism. It is like a photograph, capturing the most commonly used revolutionary slogans painted in red and black on the walls and on the store shutters at Jaleh Square in Tehran, where soldiers fired at people.

A Pietà-like figure of a woman holding the head and shoulders of a dying male demonstrator occupies the center and foreground of the painting.

The woman observes a strict Islamic dress code; her expression a combination of sorrow and steely determination. The man's shirt and the bandage around his head are soaked with blood dripping onto the pavement. Tell-tale signs of a crushed demonstration—a fallen poster on a stick, a few loose bricks and a pair of shoes left on the pavement—underline the mood.

Another design is clearly influenced by the world-famous photograph of the American Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima Island.

Here, at the center of the poster, Persian Muslim revolutionaries raise a green flag emblazoned with the Islamic confession of faith "There is no deity but God."

They are surrounded by the bodies of demonstrators mown down by the Imperial tanks, visible in the distance.

In the background, the equestrian statue of the shah is being pulled down. Still in exile, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is very much present in spirit, as indicated by his image hovering over the crowd, fist clenched, inspiring them to fight on until victory is theirs.

During the 444 days of the hostage crisis (1979-81), anti-American propaganda was often reflected in the graphic arts. The poster depicting an American Schweinhund, with dollar bills sticking out of his head and mouth, ears firmly locked, and a rolled copy of Playboy magazine in his pouch, is an embodiment of



"Isar" ("Altruism") by Kazem Chalipa.

the "corrupter on earth" (mofsed fi'l-arz), in reference to a verse in the Quran.

Anti-American feeling reached its height when in a catastrophic error of identification an American warship shot down a civilian Persian airliner. In the graphic layout of this postage stamp, the body of the warship is an American flag, and the map of the Persian Gulf in the background is in flames.

However, what set off the real avalanche of graphic art in Persia was the "Imposed War" (Jang-e Tahmili) with Iraq (1980-88).

During the eight years of the war, every graphic artist was drawn upon to contribute to the war effort and maintain the high morale of the combatants and of the population at large.

Working in a myriad of military, government, and non-government studios, they produced some of the most heartfelt and arresting wartime graphics in contemporary history.

The photograph by Mohammad Farnud, which appeared on the dust jacket of the multivolume series The Imposed War, was transformed by Ahadyari Rad into a 24 x 19 m tile mural in Tehran.

The mural succeeds in its potent invocation of the heroism and chivalry of these advancing fighters.

The mural was so popular that it was reproduced on postage stamps, as well as in countless books and magazines.

In another poster depicting the Persian fighters, the emphasis by the artist, Kazem Chalipa, is on the ethnic diversity of Iranians defending their country.

The poster is called "The Guards of the Anemone Fields," an allusion to the oilfields, whose rigs are seen in the background, under the watchful eyes of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The protracted war with Iraq demanded much sacrifice, determination, steadfastness, from the people of Persia.

In their murals, posters, illustrations, and cartoons, the graphic artists devoted themselves to mobilizing the nation and to comforting the bereaved.

Another of Kazem Chalipa's powerful murals, which he also made into a poster and a postage stamp, depicts "Isar" (Altruism): Under the shelter of a prayer niche stands a woman holding the dead body of a fallen hero in her arms.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
 To be continued.

# Busan film festival to open with "Scent of Wind", Saeid Rustai on panel

By **Mostafa Mousavi Sabet**

TEHRAN – The Iranian drama "Scent of Wind" will be the opening film of the Busan International Film Festival, one of the most significant film festivals in Asia.

Directed by Hadi Mohaqeq, the film will be competing in Jiseok, a competition section for established Asian filmmakers with three or more feature films, the organizers have announced.

The two best films are presented with the Kim Jiseok Award. The award was created in commemoration of the late Kim Jiseok, a program director who devoted his life to nurturing and supporting Asian cinema.

Mohaqeq and Hossein Qurchian co-wrote the story set in a distant Iranian village where a paralyzed man collects herbal medicine in the mountains for making his living with his sick child. The electricity goes off in his house and an electrician comes to fix it. Unfortunately, the problem is bigger than what was anticipated and may take days to be resolved. When he sees the child on the sickbed, he feels committed to doing whatever he can to bring the electricity back. However, he has a tough job ahead with facing nature and some unexpected events.

Iranian director Saeid Rustai (Saeed Roustaei) has been selected for the Sonje Award Juries. He along with Japanese director Chie Hayakawa and Korean director Gaeun Yoon



"Scent of Wind" by Iranian director Hadi Mohaqeq.

will choose the winners in the Wide Angle – Korean Short Film Competition Section and the Asian Short Film Competition Section.

The festival, which will take place in the South Korean city of Busan from October 5 to 14, plans to screen Rustai's latest film "Leila's Brothers" in a Window on Asian Cinema, a non-competitive section dedicated to reviewing the latest films from well-established directors as well as the upcoming rookies of the industry within Asian cinema.

Movies by other Iranian

filmmakers have also been selected to be screened in the different categories of the festival.

"Life & Life" by Ali Qavitan will be contending for a Kim Jiseok Award, while "No End", a co-production from Iran, Germany and Turkey by Nader Saeivar, will be screened in New Current, a competition for up-and-coming Asian filmmakers' first or second features.

"Jouissance" by Sadeq Es'haqi and "The Valley of the Wind" by Samir Noruznasseri have been selected to be screened in the Wide Angle – Asian Short

Film Competition, and "The Football Aficionado" by Sharmin Mojtahedzadeh and Paliz Khoshdel will be showcased in the Wide Angle – Documentary Competition.

"See You Friday, Robinson" by Mitra Farahani has been picked for the Wide Angle – Documentary Showcase. Iran has co-produced the documentary with France, the Kingdom of Eswatini and Lebanon.

"No Bears" by Jafar Panahi will be screened in Icons, a showcase of the latest films by contemporary iconic filmmakers from around the world.

## Chaniartoon picks 19 Iranian animated movies for 2022 competition

From Page 1 ► "The Wet Mirror" is a loose adaptation of the Sheikh Sanan story from Persian poet Attar Neyshaburi's "The Conference of the Birds". Sheikh Sanan falls in love with a Christian girl, who forces the sheikh to do things against his beliefs and religion.

The animation is about an old miniaturist who has painted images of romance in his paintings for years, but all at once is ensnared by a burning love for a young girl.

"The Sprayer" is about an area occupied by the sprayer's army. No one has the right to grow any kind of plant either in public or private. So many of the people and soldiers do not even know how a plant grows or what one looks like, until one day one of the soldiers finds a seed buried deep down in the dust, and his curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary.

Sympathy Syndrome is an animation adaptation of a book written by Iranian

children's book writer Tahereh Eybod.

A child is at home, looking out the window. Mesmerized by outside world's beauty, the kid decides to leave the house. Once outside the kid begins to worry if the chaos is destroying the environment.

The lineup also includes "The Red Fire", "Sewing Machine", and "The Red Fire".

Directed by Mona Abdollah Shahi, "The Red Fire" tells the story of the Darkness Demon, who has swept over the world, trying to establish the end of Light, unlike the earlier promises and prophecies. It is in such an era that a flock of Red birds travel in search of the Red Fire; a Fire that according to the prophecies, wipes out the blackness and puts an end to the constant eclipse and absence of the Sun. But where are they going to find the Red Fire?

"Sewing Machine" by Najmeh Hashemolhosseini follows a woman in a sewing workshop who has a technical problem



"The Sprayer" by Farnush Abedi.

with her old sewing machine. A little girl may be able to solve the problem.

"Under Siege by a Finger", "Politics", "Rain", "Home", "Dot", "Thou Shalt Dance", "Backpack", "Bubble Beetle", "Lakh", "The Improvement of Human Reason", "The Crow", "Magic Lantern" and "Playground" are other Iranian films competing in the festival, which will run until September 18.

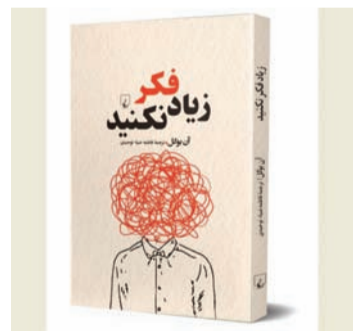
## "Don't Overthink It" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "Don't Overthink It: Make Easier Decisions, Stop Second-Guessing, and Bring More Joy to Your Life" by American author Anne Bogel has been published in Persian by Qoqnu.

Fatemeh Zia-Tohidi is the translator of the book originally published by Baker Books in 2020.

We've all been there: stuck in a cycle of what-ifs, plagued by indecision, paralyzed by the fear of getting it wrong.

Nobody wants to live a life of



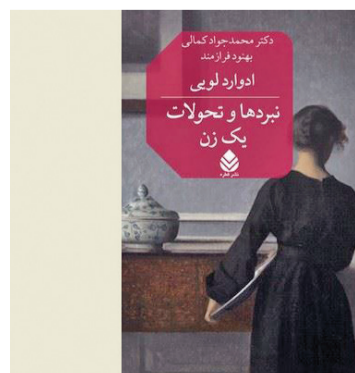
A poster for the Persian edition of Anne Bogle's book "Don't Overthink It".

constant overthinking, but it doesn't feel like something we can choose to stop doing. It feels like something we're wired to do, something we just can't escape. But is it?

Bogel's answer is no. Not only can you overcome negative thought patterns that are repetitive, unhealthy and unhelpful, but you can also replace them with positive thought patterns that will bring more peace, joy and love into your life.

In "Don't Overthink It", you'll find actionable strategies that can make an immediate and lasting difference in how you deal with questions both small--Should I buy these flowers?--and large--What am I doing with my life? More than a book about making good decisions, "Don't Overthink It" offers you a framework for making choices you'll be comfortable with, using an appropriate amount of energy, freeing you to focus on all the other stuff that matters in life.

## Persian readers enter "A Woman's Battles"



Front cover of the Persian edition of Edouard Louis's book "A Woman's Battles and Transformations".

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of French novelist Édouard Louis's book "A Woman's Battles and Transformations" has come to Iranian bookstores.

Published by Qatreh, the book has been translated into Persian by Mohammad-Javad Kamali and Behnud Farazmand.

"A Woman's Battles and Transformations" is a portrait of the author's mother by the acclaimed writer of the international bestsellers "The End of Eddy" and "History of Violence".

Late one night, Louis got a call from his 45-year-old mother: "I did it. I left your father." Suddenly, she was free.

This is the searing and sympathetic story of one woman's liberation: of mothers and

sons, of history and heartbreak, of politics and power.

It reckons with the cruel systems that govern our lives – and with the possibility of escape.

Sharp, short and fine as a needle, it is a necessary addition to the work of Louis, "one of France's most widely read and internationally successful novelists," the New York Times Magazine wrote.

An English translation by Tash Aw was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux on August 16.

Louis is also the author of the nonfiction book "Who Killed My Father". Compared to Jean Genet by The Paris Review, his work deals with sexuality, class and violence.