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No Guarantee? No Deal!

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Report **T**

Austria's camp an opportunity for Queiroz to know his lineup

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Carlos Queiroz, head coach of the Iran national football team, is set to select his final squad in the upcoming friendly matches against Uruguay and Senegal.

Last week, the Portuguese coach announced a 27-man squad list for the national team's training camp in Austria, where the friendly matches are to be held.

All the players invited to the recent training camp will most likely participate in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, except for one goalkeeper!

Queiroz, who replaced former national team coach Dragan Skocic after months of controversy and speculation, knows the most of the players very well. He had an eight-year stint in Iran before two unsuccessful experiences with Colombia and Egypt national teams.

Unlike the previous FIFA World Cups, every team can take 26 players, instead of 24, to the tournament.

It means that from current Iran's 27-man team, just one player needs to be dropped. So, the 69-year-old coach and his technical staff can know the players better in the two friendly games against Uruguay and Senegal.

Since the national team don't have any other time to hold preparatory training camp or friendly matches after the September international break, Queiroz must work on his tactical and technical plan in the current camp. ▶ Page 3

748 knowledge-based firms exempted from customs duty

TEHRAN - So far, 748 knowledge-based companies have been granted customs duty exemption, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

More than 2,887 services have been provided to applicants in the fields of customs clearance, order registration, foreign exchange supply, and other issues.

By creating a customs support package, the Vice Presidency aims to facilitate the access of knowledge-based companies to the goods, laboratory equipment, and machinery, which is not intended to increase imports but to strengthen national production.

Considering that many knowledge-based companies are considered small and medium-sized and have financial limitations, support packages in the field of taxation, customs and social security help them to take the initial steps more firmly.

Knowledge-based ecosystem

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

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology was founded in 2006 as one of the sub-sets of the government with the slogan of moving from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based one, aiming at increasing technological capabilities and innovation in order to generate wealth from the knowledge and improve people's quality of life. ▶ Page 7



Play with Taiwan tool; Biden threatens China

United States President Joe Biden has again made statements in support of secessionist forces in Taiwan, raising tensions with China on a very sensitive issue for Beijing.

The statements have also raised question marks over whether his administration is distancing itself from Washington's official

position on the one-China principle toward the self-ruled island.

In a TV interview, Biden was asked what Beijing should know about the White House's commitment to Taiwan, in reference to separatist forces on the Taiwan Strait.

Biden replied "we agree with what we signed on to, a long time ago. And there's a one-China policy then Taiwan makes their own judgments about their independence.

We are not moving... we are not encouraging them to be independent ... that's their decision." ▶ Page 5

Russian trade delegation in Tehran to discuss expansion of ties

TEHRAN- A Russian trade delegation comprising 100 representatives from 65 companies are visiting Tehran to discuss the areas for cooperation with their Iranian counterparts, the spokesman of Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade announced.

Omid Qalibaf said that the Russian delegates started their negotiations on Monday, adding that Iranian traders and businessmen will hold a total of 750 business meetings with the representatives of Russian companies during the three-day stay of the delegation in Tehran, Tasnim news agency reported.

Emphasizing the determination of Iran and Russia in deepening trade relations, Qalibaf said that according to the announcement of the Russian Export Center, more than 10 other large trade delegations will travel to Iran by the end of this year. ▶ Page 4



Pupils delight at reopening of schools

A boy is busy picking up stationery for the upcoming school year which starts officially on September 24.

After two years of being fully or partially closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, schools all around the country will reopen doors to students full of joy and enthusiasm.

Pasargadae is more than meets the eye: archaeologist

TEHRAN—An Iranian archaeologist believes the UNESCO-designated Pasargadae, which began under Cyrus the Great in about 546 BC, was more expanded than what we now perceive from its ruins.

"Archaeological evidence suggests that Pasargadae is beyond what we see. It was a summer residence, a recreational area with many gardens and buildings..." IRIB quoted archaeologist Ali Mousavi as saying on Sunday.

Situated about 50 km north of Persepolis, Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens, and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization.

"For instance, based on comparative research on the stone tower of Pasargadae's Prison of Solomon, we believe that tower and

its surroundings had a religious function and were a sacred environment at that time."

Citing another example, the archaeologist noted: "In this area, a special place was built with clay, which is the oldest fire temple of the Achaemenid period ever discovered."

"Next to this building, numerous goat or lamb bones have been discovered, which were burned in a ceremony according to the writings of one of the tablets uncovered from the ramparts of Persepolis. ▶ Page 6

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Nuclear chief: IAEA is referencing Israel

TEHRAN— In a live interview with national TV late Sunday, Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said that Israel has turned into a reference for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He also noted that AEOI has received signals from the IAEA indicating that the UN's nuclear watchdog is ready to close the Safeguards probe.

During the interview, Eslami said that Iran is looking to break the atmosphere that has been shaped against Iran's nuclear industry to block the path of achieving diverse accomplishments.

The AEOI chief noted, "The narrative that Zionists and Westerners make about Iran's nuclear program and the accusations they have against our nuclear industry predates to 20 years ago."

He then noted that ever since 20 years ago, a provocative move has been formed against Iran's nuclear industry which is led by the Zionists which ultimately led to the imposition of heavy sanctions against Iran.

"20 years of negotiations were conducted by various officials and finally the JCPOA agreement was reached, which is an agreement with two pillars. In one pillar, we reduced our speed for transparency and trust building, and they increased their monitoring, and in the other pillar, they were supposed to remove accusations and sanctions against Iran," Iran's nuclear chief added.

The West did not fulfill its obligations and withdrew from the JCPOA, Eslami noted, adding that now that they intend to return to the JCPOA, they say that these issues are new and different from the JCPOA. ▶ Page 2

Iran enters into Oscars 2023 with "World War III"

TEHRAN - Iran selected its Venice-acclaimed drama "World War III" on Monday to submit to the international feature award at the 2023 Oscars.

The film directed by Hooman Seyyedi premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Italy and won the Orizzonti Award for Best Film.

It also brought its star Mohsen Tanabandeh the award for best actor at the major international event.

The film is about Shakib, a homeless day laborer who never got over the loss of his wife and son in an earthquake years ago.

Over the last couple of years, he has developed a relationship with a deaf and mute woman, Ladan. The construction site on which he works today turns out to be the set of a film about the atrocities committed by Hitler during WWII. Against all odds, he is given a movie role, a house and a chance at being somebody. When Ladan learns about this, she comes to his workplace begging for help. Shakib's scheme to hide her goes tragically wrong and threatens to ruin his newfound status and what seemed to be the opportunity of a lifetime. ▶ Page 8

No direct talks with U.S., says foreign ministry

Spokesman: We won't give Lebanon free fuel

Nuclear chief: IAEA is referencing Israel

From page 1 ▶ “These issues have existed since 2003, and now in 2022, nothing new has happened,” he reiterated.

Israel made the accusations against Iran, but now Israel has become a reference for the IAEA, Esfami added.

The AEOI chief revealed that in the negotiations that were conducted in the previous government, “the IAEA said that we have information and you should give us access to visit four places so that we can close this case.” They did not have valid documents for these accusations, as Esfami said.

He further noted that the IAEA inspectors came, visited and left and found nothing but contamination, which may be everywhere.

Referring to the agreement between Iran and Rafael Grossi, IAEA Director General, Esfami said, “We reached an understanding with Grossi and that a statement would be published and we said that you give us your queries and we will respond to the queries on the condition that you close the case.”

The Agency said that we are closing the case

of two of the alleged places and you should clarify more about the next two sites, Esfami said, adding, “Later, they closed the case of one of those two sites and later, they reopened the case of the same site.”

Esfami exemplified, “One of these places is an abandoned mine that has been unused for more than 30 years.”

There is no nuclear activity in the Islamic Republic of Iran that has not been reported to the Agency or that the Agency is unaware of, he reiterated, adding that all of Iran's activities are under the Agency's supervision.

About 2% of the world's nuclear capacity is related to Iran, but about 25% of the inspections are done from Iran, the AEOI chief lamented.

Esfami then noted, “The messages we hear from the Agency show that they intend to close this (Safeguards) case. We hope they are honest and don't waste more time and don't assume that they can apply maximum pressure with this leverage.”

“The important issue is that there must be political will to close the case,” he concluded.

Ball in Washington court to carry out prisoner swap deal with Iran: FM spokesman

TEHRAN- It is now “up to the U.S. administration” to determine whether or not it wants to uphold its half of the bargain, according to the spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry. Tehran is prepared to put into effect the agreement on the exchange of detainees with Washington.

“We have already stated that we are willing to exchange prisoners with the U.S., and we remain willing to do so. The issue has been the subject of several negotiations, and the parties have come to the required agreements. The U.S. government must now determine whether or not to put this agreement into effect. In an interview with ISNA that was published on Sunday, Nasser Kanaani stated, “We are prepared to implement it.”

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), often known as the Iran Deal, was being negotiated by international powers at the time the agreement was made in Vienna.

Tehran has stated time and time again that it is prepared to swap prisoners with the U.S. in accordance with the arrangement and separately from the nuclear deal, which the U.S. unilaterally ended in May 2018 despite Iran's complete and rigorous compliance.

Kanaani further emphasized that the Islamic Republic will never give up its own political independence for the sake of specific diplomatic ties, vehemently refuting claims that Russia is impeding the Vienna negotiations on the restoration of the JCPOA and the lifting of sanctions against Tehran.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will not give up its political independence for the benefit of ties with foreign nations on a diplomatic level. The talks to lift the sanctions have been conducted using the same strategy. As a signatory to the JCPOA, Russia has naturally taken part in the negotiations and offered opinions,” the official added.

There have been allegations that Russia is stalling the negotiations and preventing a deal amid the efforts to save the JCPOA. Russia and Iran both refuted such contrived claims.

Kanaani also denied reports that Iran was urged by Russia to postpone the deal until later in the winter. The Iranian diplomat continued by denying claims that Russia is interfering with the negotiations in the capital of Austria, emphasizing that it is the U.S. side's job to assume responsibility and contribute to the conclusion of the agreement.

It is only a blame game, Kanaani stated, because the United States of America periodically accuses both Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The foreign ministry spokesperson for Iran also highlighted that Russia and China have enabled and are aiding the development of Vienna talks, highlighting that the official views of Moscow and Beijing are wholly in support of the JCPOA revival negotiations and Tehran's stance.

“The U.S. administration is a party that withdrew from the talks and is currently coming up with rationalizations and preventing the conclusion of the final accord. It is vital to note that the Islamic Republic of Iran values its political independence highly and will not allow it to be swayed by the ideologies of any other nation,” according to Kanaani.

In May 2018, the United States, then led by former President Donald Trump, renounced the accord and reinstated the unilateral sanctions that it had withdrawn.

In April of last year, months after Joe Biden succeeded Trump, the negotiations to save the deal began in Vienna, Austria, with the goal of determining how seriously Washington intended to rejoin the pact and lift sanctions against Iran.

Despite significant advancement, the lengthy negotiations were often interrupted by the U.S.'s indecision and delay.

Khalil Dardmand, an Iranian national who was detained by Saudi police in the holy city of Mecca in July, was also urged to be released. The top Iranian diplomat also urged Saudi Arabia to take meaningful humanitarian action.

Saudi Arabia broke off diplomatic ties with Iran in January 2016 when Iranian demonstrators stormed its embassy in Tehran following the Saudi murder of famous Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr.

When Donald Trump was president of the United States, a previous ally of the Saudi monarchs, the kingdom suddenly began a combative foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic.

Saudi Arabia recently demonstrated its desire to heal fences with Tehran and reestablish bilateral relations through diplomatic channels and third parties.

The two neighbors are still sharply separated over a number of international problems, including the Saudi campaign in Yemen.

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani once again reiterated that no direct talks will take place between Iranian and American officials during President Ebrahim Raisi's trip to New York to address the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Kanaani explained that the president and the accompanying delegation's trip is to New York to attend and address the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

“The presence of Mr. Bagheri (Kani), the Political Deputy Foreign Minister and chief negotiator of Iran in this trip is to accompany Iran's high-ranking delegation and there is no predetermined program to discuss the sanctions removal negotiations within the framework of this trip,” he noted.

According to the information obtained by the Tehran Times, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani, Political Deputy to President Mohammad Jamshidi, and Head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament Vahid Jalalzadeh will accompany President Raisi on his trip to New York.

It is worth mentioning that Raisi and his delegation left Tehran for New York Monday morning.

Kanaani however didn't entirely rule out the possibility of a meeting regarding the resurrection of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in the United States.

“Naturally, international meetings are always a good opportunity for political meetings and sideline negotiations between the officials of the countries, and it is an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral, regional and multilateral and international issues of interest. I do not rule out the possibility that there will be talks on the nuclear issue on the sidelines of the meeting, and Iran naturally uses every opportunity to express its views on matters of mutual and international interest,” the spokesman stated.

He then reminded the press that Iran has never left the negotiation table, never sidelines diplomacy and considers constructive negotiations as an appropriate, logical and reasonable way to resolve disputes.

“It is a possibility that on the sidelines of the meeting, talks with the negotiating parties regarding JCPOA revival talks will take place. Political dialogue, as well as using international multilateral frameworks are the right way to solve cases,” the diplomat opined.

Iran will use every opportunity to express its constructive and logical views and the United Nations General Assembly is one of the suitable opportunities, the spokesman underlined.

Kanaani then reiterated that Tehran will not have any sort of direct talks with the American officials.

“No bilateral meeting at any level will take place between Iranian and American officials in New York. The



president was very clear about that. I reiterate that Mr. Bagheri's trip is not related to bilateral talks between Iran and U.S. officials,” Kanaani underscored.

Tehran's position regarding geopolitical changes in borders are clear

Elsewhere in the presser, Kanaani faced some questions about border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, to which he responded, “The clear position of Iran regarding the developments in the South Caucasus region has been officially expressed many times by different officials and there is no ambiguity in this regard. Unfortunately, since last Tuesday, we witnessed the beginning of new border conflicts between the two countries of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, which has led to the death and injury of a large number of soldiers from both sides.”

Iran, based on its neighborhood policy and principled policy of trying to help constructively to resolve regional crises, took action and made political efforts as soon as possible, Kanaani noted, adding that Iran, as before, did not spare any help to create peace and end the conflicts since the beginning of the crisis and acted quickly in this regard and tried diplomatic efforts to establish a ceasefire.

The spokesman added, “Iran's fundamental positions are clear. We believe in the necessity of using political approaches and solutions to end conflicts and reduce tension and enter into political dialogues to resolve border disputes between the two countries.”

The diplomat stated that Iran's policy regarding change in geopolitics of the region and international borders is very clear, stating, “We believe that what can help resolve these disputes is the existence of political will in both countries is to initiate dialogue and use regional frameworks and joint efforts of good neighbors to help end conflicts and resolve disputes. Iran has friendly and close relations with both sides based on its neighborhood policy, and is still ready to help end tensions and resolve disputes.”

According to the spokesman, Tehran has used all its political capacities based on the neighborliness policy and good and close relations with the two countries until now.

“Iran has supported regional and multilateral frameworks to enter into all issues of interest to the countries of the region, including the 3+3 framework, and good talks

have been held in this framework in the past. In recent days, Iran has exchanged views on holding this meeting and will continue this effort,” Kanaani stated.

The spokesman also said that Tehran looks at the developments in the South Caucasus and especially the conflicts between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the framework of its principled and declared political view.

“The escalation of tensions and instability in the South Caucasus will not serve the interests of any of the regional countries, the conflicting countries and neighboring countries. The thing that will solve the crisis is the joint dialogue between the two countries and the use of regional capacities to reduce tension and the formation of political frameworks to stabilize stability and security in the region,” Kanaani stated.

He then once again reaffirmed that a geopolitical change in the region will cause instability, noting, “For us, regional frameworks are a principle and we believe that any party that wants to comment in the region should try to create peace and stability in the region.”

He added that Tehran considers inciting tensions neither in the interests of Azerbaijan nor Armenia, nor the interests of the region.

“Peace, stability and security in the region are necessary for economic development and the expansion of regional relations and cooperation and the prosperity of economic and commercial relations. This is Iran's principled policy and we consider any approach outside of this to be provocative and we do not accept escalation of instability in the region in any way,” the diplomat opined.

Violence won't help bring peace in Afghanistan

Responding to a question about the recent developments in Afghanistan, the spokesman stated that violence is not the solution to bring peace to Afghanistan.

“Iran's policy regarding the developments in Afghanistan is clear. Since the departure of the occupying forces from this country in the past year, Iran, as one of the most important countries in the region, established its relations with all Afghan parties and with the view of helping to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan,” the spokesman stated.

Iran's fundamental approach was that what can be in line with the interests of the Afghan nation is a political approach and

avoiding Afghan-Afghan conflicts and the formation of an inclusive political framework in Afghanistan for the formation of a unified and inclusive government, the diplomat added, noting, “Iran is in close contact with the interim governing body of Afghanistan and other Afghan parties.”

Iran does not support any military approach and Afghan-Afghan conflicts inside Afghanistan, according to the spokesman.

“We consider killing from any side inside Afghanistan as a loss for the Afghan nation, and the military approach hinders the formation of the political process for the formation of a unified and comprehensive government in Afghanistan. Therefore, our relationship with the Afghan parties is in place and Iran's political positions in relation to the internal developments of Afghanistan and the events that are happening in this country are based on helping to create stability and peace and preventing Afghan-Afghan conflicts,” Kanaani noted.

The general interest of Afghanistan is a principle for Iran, the diplomat stated, adding, “Our political positions will be defined in this framework, and we will continue our political efforts in this regard.”

Iran's relations with Lebanon is cordial

Regarding the issue of Iran helping Lebanon deal with the energy crisis, the spokesman said that Iran and Lebanon share cordial relations.

“We have friendly relations with the Lebanese government and we are trying to help them in the framework of friendly and constructive relations and the development of bilateral cooperation with this country at various levels. Iran has held discussions with the relevant ministries regarding helping Lebanon overcome its energy crisis,” the spokesman said.

He then went on to note that supporting friendly governments and helping solve their problems is on the agenda of Iran's foreign policy.

“Iran is definitely ready to help solve Lebanon's problems according to its capacities and in accordance with Lebanon's capacity regarding mutual interests and benefits. This is the general and principled policy of Iran, and with the negotiations ongoing between the two countries, the ground for more economic assistance to Lebanon will be prepared,” the diplomat stated.

Kanaani rebuffed speculations about Iran giving free fuel, noting that there is no discussion of giving free fuel.

“Our talks in the field of economic relations and energy supply, both regarding oil and electricity supply are being negotiated in the form of an aid package, and the issue of giving away for free is out of the question. Helping solve Beirut's energy problems both in the field of fuel and in the field of electricity is on our agenda and we hope that with further negotiations between the two countries, the Lebanese people would be able to see some of their needs met,” Kanaani concluded.

Iran actively monitoring UN report on effects of U.S. sanctions: Human rights chief

TEHRAN- Kazem Qaribabadi, Head of Iran's Human Rights Headquarters and Deputy Chief of the judiciary, emphasized that his nation is steadfastly committed to implementing the recommendations made in the UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights Alena Douhan's report on the effects of U.S. sanctions on Iranians' daily lives.

The significance of Douhan's report on the impact of unilateral U.S. sanctions on the Iranian people was highlighted by Qaribabadi.

He pointed out that the UN special rapporteur has made it very evident that unilateral sanctions have had an impact on the political,

social, economic, and human rights elements of the Iranian people and have increased global accountability for sanctions.

The judiciary official added that Iran would carefully follow up on the implications of Douhan's report to accurately portray the damaging and detrimental consequences of sanctions on the Iranian people.

The UN has been asked to provide procedures for compensation, restitution, and reparation for victims of the unilateral coercive measures. Douhan recently reaffirmed in a report the detrimental effects of punitive sanctions on the Iranian people.

During his 11-day trip to Iran in May, Douhan met

the country's human rights officials and members of nongovernmental organizations. The purpose of the visit was to gather data on the effects of sanctions in order to hold countries that use such unilateral actions accountable.

After former President Donald Trump's administration abandoned the 2015 nuclear agreement and launched what it called a maximum pressure campaign against Tehran at the time, targeting the Iranian nation with the “toughest ever” sanctions, the United States started to unilaterally re-impose sanctions against Iran in 2018.

Washington has emphasized that the trade in food and humanitarian supplies is unaffected

by Tehran's sanctions. But during the past few years, the country has been unable to get urgently required medicines and medical supplies due to stringent restrictions on banking transactions involving Iran.

According to Iranian officials, the United States has been pressuring businesses in Europe and other regions of the world to quit doing business with Tehran.

Tehran asserted that Washington will lose Tehran's trust as long as President Joe Biden upholds the disastrous course of maximum pressure and sanctions pursued by Donald Trump against Iran.

Iranian authorities said that the Biden



administration has only made empty pledges to ease sanctions on Tehran so far. They slammed the U.S.'s addition to sanctions and the POTUS for carrying on his predecessor's Iran policy.

Iran president rules out negotiations with U.S. ahead of trip to New York

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi has said that he has no plans to hold negotiations or meetings with the American side during his trip to New York.

Ayatollah Raisi spoke to reporters in Tehran before leaving for New York to participate in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. After a short statement about his plans in New York, the Iranian president left Tehran for New York on Monday morning.

Ayatollah Raisi was officially seen off at the airport by the First Vice-President and Advisor to the Supreme Leader in International Affairs, as well as a group of cabinet members.

During this trip, in addition to his speech at the United Nations General Assembly and the meeting of the UNESCO, the president will also meet and discuss with a number of heads of countries participating in the General Assembly and will have other side meetings as well.

In the last days of last week, Raisi had a three-day trip to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in order to participate in the 22nd meeting of the heads of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to pursue the establishment of a fair international order through economic multilateralism, and in this regard, on the sidelines of this meeting, he met and talked with 10 heads of countries present in Samarkand, including Russia, China and India.

Before leaving for New York Raisi elaborated on the goals of his trip. "This visit is happening at the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations and to participate in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly," he said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

He described attending this meeting as an opportunity to express the rational and logical views of the Islamic Republic of Iran and stated, "Because the media environment in the world is dominated by major world powers and the system of domination, these opportunities should be used to explain the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and express the atrocities that have been committed against the great nation of Iran."

Ayatollah Raisi stated that today human societies suffer from oppression and injustice and added, "Attending the meeting of the United



Nations General Assembly and explaining these oppressions and injustices can actually be one of the manifestations of the explanation jihad."

Explaining his other plans for this trip, the president stated, "We will have bilateral meetings with the leaders of some countries on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly."

President Raisi emphasized, "There are no plans to negotiate or meet with the Americans during this trip, and we have no plans to meet with them."

Raisi listed the meeting with Iranians living in America as another part of his trip to New York and said, "The principle of attending this summit and conducting meetings will be in line with the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, which is based on honor, wisdom and expediency."

President Raisi noted, "Thanks to the blood of the martyrs and the Iranian nation's resistance against threats and sanctions, we will have a powerful presence there as a great civilization center and on behalf of a nation with dignity."

Ayatollah Raisi pointed out that we will defend the rights of the great nation of Iran without stuttering, and we will explain the atrocities and corruptions that afflict the world, adding, "I hope that this visit can be the symbol of people's trust and have effects for our country and system and for the Muslim nations and the underprivileged around the world."

Also, President Raisi conducted two interviews before going to New York. In these interviews, he expanded on the state of the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"The subject of our discussion and expectation from the Vienna talks is the lifting of the oppressive sanctions

against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this agreement, it was the Islamic Republic of Iran that fulfilled its commitment. The International Atomic Energy Agency has announced nearly 15 times that the Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its commitments and that Iran's nuclear activities are peaceful," he said in an interview with Al Jazeera.

He added, "It was the Americans who withdrew from the agreement and it was the European countries that did not fulfil their obligations. In Vienna, we pursued the issue of lifting sanctions and of course emphasized that any agreement should be accompanied by a guarantee. The reason for demanding a guarantee is that the other side violated the agreement in the agreement, and now naturally there should be trust that they will not violate the agreement again; So guarantee is necessary."

Raisi noted, "Also, removal of sanctions should be accompanied with the resolution of safeguards. If political and baseless accusations against Islamic Republic of Iran are to stay, the agreement will have no effect and use. Because it is possible that the parties to the agreement, as they proposed a resolution to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency during the negotiations, may create problems again by abusing the existing influence and connections they have. So, we should finalise these safeguard issues. Regarding the guarantees, if we have the trustworthy guarantees, and we have the lasting removal of the sanctions, not temporary removal of sanctions, and if there is a lasting solution for the safeguard issues, for sure it is possible to reach agreement. Now, it is the Americans who have to decide, because they were the ones

who violated the treaty. They withdrew from JCPOA and now they have to decide to stick to their commitment."

Responding to a question on what is preventing a deal in Vienna, Raisi said, "What is preventing the final agreement is the commitment that the Americans have to give; We announced our position. Our negotiating team is still at the negotiation table and we have stated many times that we will stick to a fair and good agreement, but the Americans must decide. This is actually the problem of Americans who have to decide what they want to do! Although sanctions may cause problems for any country, the Islamic Republic has shown that sanctions have not and will not stop it in any way. We started the process of growth and development of the country and we plan to continue this process and we will not stop the progress of the country in any way, because our nation is a strong-willed and powerful nation and has the ability to turn threats to opportunities. We have done this before in many instances."

Responding to a separate question on the issue of guarantees, Raisi said, "The guarantees announced by the West should be reassuring for the Islamic Republic. You should give the Islamic Republic the right to ask for a guarantee, because it is not dealing with the country or countries that have fulfilled their agreement, but with the American who violated the agreement and they themselves admit that they violated the agreement. When they themselves admit that they violated the agreement, it is naturally necessary for them to provide guarantees so that we can somehow trust them with an agreement."

No guarantee? No deal!

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Concluding the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal appears to depend on the U.S.'s offering credible guarantees that it won't back down on its commitment again.

Nearly three weeks ago, Iran gave a response to an American text submitted via the European Union's coordinator for the Vienna talks, Josep Borrell. The response was the second in kind. Earlier, Borrell had put forth what he called a "final text." Iran started studying the text immediately after receiving it. After a week of discussions, Iran submitted its response, which was relayed to Washington by the EU coordinator. Washington, in turn, responded to the Iranian response. And Iran again studied and submitted a second response which is yet to be responded to by the U.S.

The U.S. refrained from giving a clear response to the Iranian response and kept blaming Iran for broaching a number of issues, including the need for the U.S. to provide guarantees that it won't renege on its commitments under a revived Iran deal.

So far, the U.S. has refrained from giving such guarantees. And that seems to be the main reason why the Vienna talks have ground to a halt.

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has made it clear that without guarantees there will be no deal. He made the remarks before heading to New York on Monday for high-level meetings during

the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"If it's a good deal and fair deal, we would be serious about reaching an agreement. It needs to be lasting. There needs to be guarantees. If there were a guarantee, then the Americans could not withdraw from the deal," Ayatollah Raisi said in an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes.

He added, "We cannot trust the Americans because of the behavior that we have already seen from them. That is why if there is no guarantee, there is no trust."

President Raisi further elaborated on the issue of guarantees in a separate interview with Al Jazeera.

"In Vienna, we pursued the issue of lifting sanctions and of course emphasized that any agreement should be accompanied by a guarantee. The reason for demanding a guarantee is that the other side violated the agreement in the agreement, and now naturally there should be trust that they will not violate the agreement again; So guarantee is necessary," he told Al Jazeera.

President Raisi added, "Regarding the guarantees, if we have the trustworthy guarantees, and we have the lasting removal of the sanctions, not temporary removal of sanctions, and if there is a lasting solution for the safeguard issues, for sure it is possible to reach agreement. Now, it is the Americans who have to decide, because they were the ones who violated

Iran cannot trust America: Raisi

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has said that Iran can place its trust in the United States given Washington's past behaviors.

Speaking in an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes, President Raisi said, "We cannot trust the

Americans because of the behavior that we have already seen from them. That is why if there is no guarantee, there is no trust."

He also answered a question regarding the possibility of meeting his American counterpart in New York. Raisi roundly ruled out any

meeting with President Biden, saying, "No. I don't think that such a meeting would happen. I don't believe having a meeting or a talk with him will be beneficial."

President Raisi also pointed out that from Iran's perspective, there is no difference between the Biden

and Trump administrations.

"The new administration in the U.S., they claim that they are different from the Trump administration. They have said it in their messages to us. But we haven't witnessed any changes in reality," Raisi said.

Austria's camp an opportunity for Queiroz to know his lineup

From Page 1 ▶ So, he will probably trust these 27 players, and they make up the final list of the head coach to compete at the 2022 Qatar World Cup.

Of course, there is a possibility that in the upcoming days, a player will catch the eye of Mr. C.Q, or a player from the current list suffers injury, and new players will enter the national team.

Iran have some high-quality players, including Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Sardar Azmoun, and Mehdi Taremi among others, but off-field issues have hampered preparations. Therefore, Carlos Queiroz has a problematic responsibility to fulfill the task he has accepted in the best way in the short time of the World Cup.

Persepolis forward Diabate sidelined for two months



TEHRAN – Persepolis football team forward Cheick Diabate has been sidelined for two months.

The 34-year-old Malian forward joined Persepolis on a one-year deal with an option for a further year in early September.

Diabate has sustained a foot injury in the training and will be out for between six and eight weeks due to the injury.

Iran Professional League (IPL) leaders Persepolis to meet Tractor in late September.

Iranian wrestlers win gold, silver in wrestling worlds

TEHRAN – Iranian freestylers Rahman Amouzad and Reza Atri claimed a gold and a silver medal in the 2022 World Wrestling Championships Sunday night.

Amouzad defeated his American rival Yianni Diakomihali to take 65kg gold.

The bronze medals were won by Hungarian Iszmail Muszukajev and Bajrang Punia f India.

Kamran Ghasempour won Iran's first gold Saturday night by beating his American opponent J'den Cox in the final match of the 92kg in Belgrade, Serbia.

Atri also seized a silver in the 61kg after losing to Japanese wrestler Higuchi Rei 10-0.

The first bronze medal match was won by reigning European champion Arsen Harutyunyan.

The second bronze went to Mongolian veteran Narankhuu Narmandakh who eased to a 9-0 win over Georgi Vangelov of Bulgaria.

Iran to send eight taekwondo athletes to Manchester Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Iran will send eight taekwondo practitioners to the World Taekwondo Grand Prix III in October.

Female taekwondo athletes Nahid Kiani in the -57kg and Akram Khodabandeh in +67kg will take part in the competition under guidance of Minoo Maddah.

Male athletes Armin Hadipour and Mahdi Hajmoosaei in the -58kg, Soroush Ahmadi in the -68kg, Mirhashem Hosseini in the -80kg, Alireza Nadalian and Sajad Mardani in the +80kg will be headed by Bijan Moghanloo in the campaign.

The World Taekwondo Grand Prix III will be held in Manchester, England from October 20 to 23.

Over 250 athletes representing 50 global nations will compete at the Manchester Regional Arena across three thrilling days of action.

Wrestler Amouzad aims for Paris gold

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Rahman Amouzad aims to win a gold medal in the 2024 Olympic Games.

Amouzad defeated his American rival John Diakomihali 13-8 in the 65kg final of the 2022 World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, Serbia Sunday night.

"Thank God I was able to win the gold medal," Amouzad said. "My opponent was very tough. I hope this gold medal will put a smile on the faces of the people of Iran."

For now, his victory puts Amouzad at the head of a crowded race for gold in Paris.

"The 65kg is a weight class full of extremely tough opponents," he said. "But I am feeling great that I was able to beat my opponents through training in Iran, including with former European and world champions."

"My goal is to defend the title next year, but the ultimate goal is to win the gold in Paris," the Iranian wrestler added.

Iran freestyle team runners up at World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran freestyle team finished in second place in the 2022 World Wrestling Championships.

The U.S. finished on top with 198 points, followed by Iran with 150.

Japan sit third with 70 points.

Iranian freestylers Rahman Amouzad (65kg) and Kamran Ghasempour (92kg) claimed two gold medals.

Reza Atri (61kg), Mohammad Nokhodi (79kg) and Hassan Yazdani (86kg) earned three silver medals.

Younes Emami (74kg) and Amir Hossein Zare (125kg) also seized two bronze medals.

Iran U17 football team defeat Comoros

TEHRAN – Iran U17 football team beat Comoros 3-1 in the 24th International Youth Soccer on Monday.

Reza Ghandipour (two goals) and Kasra Taheri scored goals for Iran.

Iran started the campaign with a 2-1 loss against hosts Japan and defeated Niigata 2-1 in their second match.

Iran took part in the competition as part of preparation for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Bahrain 2023 qualification in October, where the Persians have been drawn in Group I along with Hong Kong, Kyrgyz Republic (hosts) and Laos.

Russian trade delegation in Tehran to discuss expansion of ties

From page 1 ▶ The field of activity of Russian companies in the delegation includes food and agriculture industries (cereals), confectionery and chocolate, aquatics, equipment and machinery for food and agriculture industries, medicine and medical equipment, glass and crystals, metal industries, telecommunication and radio systems,

energy and recycling, he announced.

The members of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), as well as the members of other chambers of Iran, besides the knowledge-based companies active in the field of trade are the main side with which the Russian delegates negotiate, Qalibaf added.

Commodities worth \$609m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2.544 million tons of commodities worth \$609 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 2.007 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$357 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,113,380 tons of cement, 345,000 tons of iron ore, 382,942 tons of steel, 139,000 tons of sponge iron, 16,745 tons of zinc, 8,225 tons of aluminum, 8,710 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 200 tons of coke and 29 kg of gold bars.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded 2 units of apartment on its real estate trading floor.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 526,752 tons of commodities worth nearly \$245 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 92,389 tons of polymeric products, 217,050 tons of vacuum bottom, 48,900 tons of lube cut, 30,877 tons of chemicals, 1,800 tons of sulfur, 4,964 tons of base oil, 250 tons of insulation and 129,168 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 10,265 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 10,311 million tons of commodities worth \$2.2 billion were traded at

Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Mordad (ended on August 22).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1.827 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$864 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 547,600 tons of vacuum bottom, 532,275 tons of bitumen, 321,756 tons of polymeric products, 149,500 tons of lube cut, 134,590 tons of chemicals, 110,125 tons of sulfur, 22,017 tons of oil, 2,000 tons of slops wax and 1,300 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 8.443 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.4 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,231,000 tons of cement, 1,253,000 tons of steel, 2,374,000 tons of iron ore, 371,500 tons of sponge iron, 46,555 tons of aluminum, 114,875 tons of zinc, 25,701 tons of copper, 730 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke, 60 tons of precious metals concentrate, 91 kg of gold bars and 600 dignity and fidelity SUV automobiles.

The IME also traded within the month 40,997 tons of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Export from Zanjan province rises 45% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of export from Zanjan province increased 45 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Zeyn-ul-abedin Ganj Khanlou, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that commodities worth over \$260 million were exported from the province in the five-month period.

He said that the five-month export also indicates eight percent growth in terms of weight.

He named zinc ingot, transformer and accessories, and steel ingot as the main exported products and Turkey, Iraq, and United Arab Emirates as the major export destinations.

The official further announced that commodities valued at \$231.6 million were imported to the province in the first five months of this year, which was 31 percent more than the figure in the same time span of the past year.

The import shows 13 percent fall in terms of weight, he said.

He named zinc dust, wood pulp, recycled paper and cardboard, tobacco and tobacco pulp as the major imported products.

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.

TEDPIX falls 4,000 points on Monday

the second market's index dropped 7,081 points.

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

Secretary general of Iran Chamber of Commerce,

Iran's Q1 non-oil GDP growth at 4.3%: SCI

TEHRAN- Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) excluding oil grew 4.3 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 - June 21) compared to the same period last year, according to the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

According to SCI data, the figure including oil increased 3.8 percent, IRIB reported.

The SCI put the average inflation rate in the three-month period at 40 percent, expecting the figure to reach 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

Back in June, SCI had put the country's GDP growth at 4.3 percent including oil, and at 3.5 percent excluding oil in the previous year.

As reported by the center, based on the fixed prices in the Iranian year 1390 (ended on March 19, 2012), the country's GDP stood at 7.569 quadrillion rials (about \$26.28 billion) including the oil sector, and at 6.511



quadrillion rials (about \$22.6 billion) excluding the oil sector in the past year, while the figures were 7.254 quadrillion rials (about \$25.18 billion) and 6.289 quadrillion rials (about \$21.83 billion), respectively, in 1399.

The SCI said that the agriculture sector experienced negative growth

of 3.7 percent, while the industries and mines sector grew six percent, and the services sector's growth stood at 4.5 percent in the previous year.

According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on June 7, the Iranian economy is projected to grow by 3.7

percent in 2022, while the average global economic growth is seen at 2.9 percent in the said year.

"Output in the Islamic Republic of Iran is expected to grow by 3.7 percent in 2022, boosted by the waning of the pandemic and higher oil prices," the bank said in the report.

"Iran's economy continues its gradual recovery that started in mid-2020, driven by the oil sector and services. However, water and energy shortages led to a contraction of the agriculture and industry sectors," the report said.

A recovery in Iran's oil and service sectors (11.7 and 6.5 percent growth, respectively) - following a return of global and domestic activity after the start of the pandemic - led to a five percent year-on-year growth in late 2021-early 2022, the bank said.

The bank puts Iran's economic growth at 4.1 percent in 2021 and about 3.4 percent in 2020.

South Pars daily gas production at about 615 mcm

TEHRAN - Average daily production of natural gas in Iran's South Pars gas field has stood at 614.7 million cubic meters (mcm) during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 - August 22), the managing director of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) said.

Ahmad Bahoush made the remarks in a meeting of SPGC managers with the head of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) which is in charge of the offshore section of the field, Shana reported.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the necessary measures that should be taken to prepare the complex for a sustained supply of gas during the cold season.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

Modern irrigation systems established in 25,000 ha of farmlands



TEHRAN - The project manager of Iranian Agriculture Ministry's smart irrigation systems development program has said 25,000 hectares of the country's farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21 - August 22).

Fariborz Abbasi, who is the head of the Agriculture Ministry's Water and Soil Department, said his ministry is planning to establish modern irrigation systems for 50,000 hectares of farmlands in the current year (ends

on March 20, 2023), IRNA reported.

The deputy agriculture minister noted that this year the ministry has allocated 15 trillion rials (about \$52 million) for the implementation of new irrigation systems, of which 15 percent has been spent so far.

He pointed to the supply and production of equipment for modern irrigation systems inside the country and said: "With the cooperation and help of domestic knowledge-based companies, we have reached self-sufficiency in the production of equipment and supplies for these systems."

Abbasi further mentioned his ministry's smart agriculture program and said that the smartening projects are being implemented on 4,000 hectares of the country's farmlands as a pilot in 13 provinces.

"In smart agriculture human intervention in irrigation management and planning is minimized by using new technologies," he explained.

The official expressed hope that considering the budget allocation for the provinces at the beginning of the current Iranian year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products.

Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump.

year (ended on March 20),

According to the report, the country's natural gas production capacity registered the mentioned record for the first time in the previous year when gas production from the South Pars gas field increased by more than four percent compared to the preceding year (1399).

South Pars field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

ICCIMA stresses expanding extraterritorial agricultural co-op with neighbors

TEHRAN - Members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Agriculture Committee, in a meeting on Monday, stressed the need for the expansion of agricultural cooperation with the countries in the region especially the neighbors, the ICCIMA portal reported.

During the meeting, which was chaired by Head of ICCIMA Agriculture Committee Mohsen Amini and Deputy Head of Iranian Parliament's Agriculture Committee Rahmatollah Norouzi, agricultural development with a focus on regionalism and optimal use of resources was emphasized.

The attendees of the gathering stressed that in order to achieve economic development in the country, oil should not be seen as the sole source of income and it is necessary to

use oil revenue as a driving force for other productive sectors.

Speaking at the meeting, Norouzi underlined the importance of determining certain policies for agricultural development and food security in the country and stated: "The conflict between Russia and Ukraine showed well how much investment should be made to ensure food security. This issue requires resources and expert studies."

Amini for his part noted that the only way to commercialize agriculture in the country is to use the capacities of leading and capable private companies and emphasized: "In this regard, we should not start the work from scratch, but we should take advantage of the existing global experiences and advancement"

He further said the government should not



take over extraterritorial cultivation, adding: "An arrangement should be made to increase interaction between the government and the private sector in this regard. Undoubtedly, in the light of these relationships, the basis for making the right decisions and achieving goals is created."

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 4,095 points to 1.373 million on Monday.

As reported, over 4.172 billion securities worth 28.427 trillion rials (about \$101.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 3,386 points, and



Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Money and Capital Market Committee has said the future of the stock market is expected to be more positive compared to other markets.

"In the future, we will see the improvement of the trading situation and the reduction of the fluctuations in this market," Mohsen Yeganeh told IRNA on Saturday.

"Considering the strong potentials in the capital market and their reliance on the economic potentials of the country, the ingredients for the growth of the stock market are available, but until the risks created in the country's economy are not resolved, we will still witness some fluctuations in the capital market," he added.

Play with Taiwan tool; Biden threatens China

From page 1 ▶ Asked “would U.S. forces defend the island?”, he said, “yes, if in fact there was an unprecedented attack”.

Asked again if U.S. troops would defend Taiwan in case of an attack, Biden responded, “yes”.

Over the past decades, U.S. administrations refused to speculate, in public, on whether American troops would get militarily involved with China over Taiwan. The reason for the so-called policy of “strategic ambiguity” by former American presidents was that, legally, the U.S. abandoned its position of militarily supporting Taiwan in the very late 1970s.

The China-U.S. Joint Communiqué in December 1978, declares that “The Government of the United States of America acknowledges the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China.”

After the formal recognition of China, the U.S. Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act in January 1979 which ended diplomatic relations with Taipei in favor of official ties with Beijing.

There are more communiqués between Beijing and Washington as well as international treaties acknowledging there is only one country called China which is represented at the United Nations.

Despite a White House spokesperson later saying U.S. policy towards Taiwan had not changed, the statement made by Biden is dangerous, destabilizing for the Taiwan Strait, and very irresponsible.

Separatist forces in Taipei led by Tsai Ing-wen, who are determined to illegally break up the state of China, would have received further ammunition by the U.S. president’s claims of unwavering support involving American troops.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing had lodged “stern representations” with the U.S. following Biden’s comments.

China reserves the right to take all necessary measures in response to activities that split the nation, said Mao Ning, a spokesperson at the foreign ministry.

“We are willing to do our best to strive for peaceful reunification. At the same time, we will not tolerate any activities aimed at secession,” Mao said.

She also called on the U.S. to



handle Taiwan-related issues “carefully and properly”, and not send “wrong signals” to Taiwan separatist forces, “there is only one China in the world, Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People’s Republic of China is the only legitimate government of China,” said Mao.

Apart from the ludicrous matter of expecting China to compromise on its sovereignty, many have noted that even Tsai is being played about by senior U.S. officials into a plot that involves buying more American weapons from the U.S., which legally does not even have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Experts have also pointed to history saying it shows the U.S. has never been a reliable security partner and is only interested in whatever benefits itself, which is evidently economic benefits when it comes to Taiwan. Apart from the arms, Taiwan is reported to be the U.S.’s ninth biggest trading partner.

Before Biden gave the TV interview, which was published a week after it was recorded, the U.S. State Department announced another arms sale to Taiwan, this time worth \$1.1bn.

The sale included \$355m for air-to-sea missiles, \$85m for air-to-air missiles, and a \$655m logistics support package for Taiwan’s surveillance radar program.

The arms lobby groups in the American congress would have been very pleased by the decision. The chain of events is interesting.

The latest arms sale followed military drills by Chinese forces in response to a very controversial visit to Taiwan by U.S. House of Representatives

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking American official to ever visit the Island.

China issued stern warnings against the visit saying it would jeopardize peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. It was also a clear violation of the U.S. commitment of “not developing official relations with Taiwan”, but Pelosi knew exactly what she was doing and if Taiwan didn’t have enough funds she would not have gone.

In line with the hawkish U.S. policy, Pelosi traveled to Taiwan seeking opportunities for arms deals and the next step would be selling more weapons.

The White House later used the context of China staging military drills near Taiwan for the \$1.1bn, the largest under the Biden administration. The question is what could be more natural than a country conducting exercises near an area where it lawfully has sovereignty?

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Biden on the phone in July the historical context of the Taiwan question is “crystal clear, and so are the fact and status quo that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one and same China.”

President Xi said that China firmly opposes secession aimed at “Taiwan independence” and external interference, and never allows any room for “Taiwan independence” forces in whatever form.

He added that the position of the Chinese government and people on the Taiwan question is consistent, and resolutely safeguarding China’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity is the firm will of the more than 1.4

billion Chinese people.

The Chinese president also warned that “the will of the people cannot be defied and those who play with fire will perish by it”, adding that China hoped the United States will see things clear about this.

While Biden claims he is not supporting Taiwan’s independence, the statements he makes and the actions of his senior officials are not in line with an independent approach to the issue, as the U.S. position should be legal.

In May, Biden was also asked in Tokyo if he would be prepared to use the American military in case a conflict broke out between China and Taiwanese separatist forces and he also replied yes, causing unease and confusion among other world leaders and also his security staff.

The U.S. president had the opportunity to mend ties with China, which saw tensions rise during the era of his predecessor. Under the administration of President Donald Trump, Washington sent a remarkably higher number of weapons to Taiwan and loosened the rules on diplomatic contact between the U.S. and Taipei.

Biden has decided to pursue a similar approach toward China as that of Trump, instead of taking a less provocative stance. He has even continued with the controversial move of sailing U.S. aircraft carriers through the Taiwan Strait.

In doing so, the U.S. president has put economic gain ahead of peace and stability in the East Asia region and also the world, something that is to be expected of the United States foreign policy.

WORLD HEADLINES

Türkiye expects U.S.’s cooperation in fight against PKK/ YPG, FETO: Erdogan



Türkiye expects the U.S. to act in cooperation in our fight against the PKK, YPG, and FETO in a manner befitting the spirit of alliance,” Erdogan said at a dinner event organized by the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) at Rockefeller Center in New York City.

“We expect our American friends to act in cooperation in our fight against the PKK, YPG, and FETO in a manner befitting the spirit of alliance,” Erdogan said at a dinner event organized by the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) at Rockefeller Center in New York City.

Erdogan said Turkish authorities have been “meticulously” working with their U.S. counterparts to bring FETO leader Fethullah Gulen and the group’s members to Turkish justice.

The president stressed that Türkiye will continue to fight against the FETO, PKK/YPG, and Daesh terrorist groups, adding: “We will remove the dark shadow of terror from our region.”

He and U.S. President Joe Biden have agreed to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between their nations.

Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the National Security Council chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, described the “strengthening of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation with Beijing as an unconditional priority of Russia’s foreign policy.”

Patrushev is one of Putin’s closest associates. Speaking during a meeting with Guo Shengkun, a top official of China’s Communist Party, he said that “in the current conditions, our countries must show even greater readiness for mutual support and development of cooperation.”

Patrushev’s office said in a statement after the talks in the city of Nanping that the parties agreed to “expand information exchanges on countering extremism and foreign attempts to undermine constitutional order of both countries.” The Chinese and Russian officials also emphasized a need to expand cooperation on cybersecurity.

U.S. grant of 1.5\$b enters Ukraine govt. budget: PM Shmyhal



A \$1.5 billion grant from the United States from the World Bank’s special-purpose fund has entered Ukraine’s government budget, Interfax cites as Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said.

“The government budget has received a grant of \$1.5 billion. This is the final tranche of \$4.5 billion from the United States from the World Bank’s special-purpose fund,” Shmyhal tweeted.

Shmyhal said that the funds would be allocated to reimburse budgetary expenses for pension payments and social assistance programs.

According to Ukraine’s Finance Ministry, the United States overall has promised to allocate \$12.99 billion to Kyiv in order to cover the budget deficit, and more than half of the funds have already been allocated. All funds are provided as grants.

Trump’s favorability rating drops to new low: poll



Former President Trump’s favorability rating has dropped to a new low after slowly trickling down over the past few months.

A new NBC News poll released Sunday found that 34 percent of registered voters said they have a positive view of Trump, while 54 percent say they have a negative view of him. Trump’s favorability rating was at its lowest in April 2021, when his rating fell to 32 percent in the same NBC poll.

The former president’s favorability score is down slightly since last month, with the same 54 percent saying they have a negative view of Trump but 36 percent saying they had a positive view of him.

While Trump’s favorability score has trickled down, President Biden’s score has gone up, though only slightly. This month, 45 percent said they approve of the president — a 2-point increase since last month.

Contrarily, 52 percent of voters say they disapprove of Biden, which has gone down 3 percentage points since last month.

Thousands take to streets in Moldova demanding resignation of pro-West govt.

Thousands of protesters took to the streets of the Moldovan capital Chisinau on Sunday, demanding the resignation of the pro-Western government over soaring inflation and skyrocketing energy prices.

Around 20,000 angry demonstrators rallied in the main square of the capital city, calling on President Maia Sandu and her government to resign, according to reports.

It was the largest anti-government demonstration in the small former Soviet state since Sandu was elected to office in 2020 on promises of rooting out corruption.

Protesters set up camp outside the government headquarters and vowed to remain there until the government is disbanded.

The small country of 3.5 million people has been grappling with serious economic problems fueled by surging energy prices, which increased by 29 percent in September.

The country buys its gas from Russian gas firm Gazprom under a contract signed last year.

The price keeps changing, calculated from



the spot price for gas and oil depending on the season. Spot prices have soared this year.

The pro-western Sandu has promised to secure membership in the European Union for the eastern European country.

She signed the application for EU membership, together with Igor Grosu, the President of Moldovan Parliament, and Natalia Gavriluța, the Prime Minister of Moldova, on March 3, 2022.

Since Sandu took power two years ago, Moldova’s prosecutor general has been

removed and Igor Dodon, who previously served as the president of Moldova, has been placed under house arrest.

The anti-government forces accuse the president of precipitating the current economic crisis in the country by failing to negotiate a more reasonable energy deal with Russia.

“Sandu’s biggest shortcoming is being unable to communicate with ordinary Moldovans,” analyst Vitalie Andrievschi said in an interview with Reuters.

“Sandu and her government are unable to assume their share of responsibility and punish those clearly unable to do their jobs,” he said.

The country faces record high inflation at 34.3 percent with interest rates at 21.5 percent. Also, the government has slashed its growth estimates to zero.

“Moldova is now in clinical death, to which the current authorities have brought it,” Dinu Turcanu, a politician from an opposition party of Ilan Shor, was quoted as saying.

(Source: Press TV)

9th-century mosque in Shiraz undergoes restoration



TEHRAN—Parts of the tilework of Atiq Mosque, which is considered the oldest mosque of Shiraz, in southern Fars province, have undergone urgent restoration, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project is being carried out by experienced restorers under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad explained on Monday.

The 9th-century mosque was built during the reign of Yaqub Laith Saffari, the founder of the Saffarid Empire. There are some Shabestans (subterranean halls) and beautiful tilework on the ceilings of this building, which give it a unique charm. It is located in the east of the Shah-Cheraq shrine.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education,

nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atiqh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

Shiraz is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

Free tours of Rey to commemorate tourism week

TEHRAN—The tourism directorate of Rey is arranging free-of-charge sightseeing tours of the ancient city in commemoration of the national tourism week which starts on Sep. 23.

These package tours will be offered for free on three routes from September 1 to 30, Rey's tourism chief said on Monday.

The program is organized for those interested in the cultural heritage of Rey, Noruz Taqipour said.

Last month, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said Rey held the potential to become one of the country's tourism hubs. "The city of Rey is the heart and soul of the Iranians. Their religious roots are here, so its capabilities should be acknowledged," he noted.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in



western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

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

Motla-Kuh to be demarcated for the first time



TEHRAN—Gilan's tourism directorate seeks to organize an archaeological survey to scientifically determine the legal boundaries of Motla-Kuh situated in the northern Iranian province.

"Motla-Kuh has been registered in the national heritage list, but it has not been demarcated so far... We hope to commence archaeological excavations as soon as possible to define the lawful limits of the ancient site," Vali Jahani, the provincial tourism chief, said on Monday.

The project will be beneficial for both the historical site to receive better care and maintenance and the locals, particularly the ones whose lands are situated around the site, the official explained.

Motla-Kuh is situated within the Almarsh region, which is believed to be a settlement for early humans. Last year, studies on the potteries found at four caves in Amlash

suggested Neanderthals used them as shelters.

Amlash is home to some historical and archaeological sites such as Liar-Sang-Bon, filled with ancient and prehistoric settlements and cemeteries. Liar-Sang-Bon was initially identified in [the Iranian calendar year] 1391 (March 2012–March 2013) while its related mapping and demarcating projects were completed in [the calendar year] 1393 and its first season of excavation commenced in [the calendar year] 1395.

The excavations yielded helpful cultural information in archaeology, anthropology, and ancient botanist arenas. Field research in 2016 led to the discovery of funerary and stone architectural objects that are estimated to date from the Parthian and Sassanid eras.

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

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

Pasargadae is more than meets the eye: archaeologist

From page 1 ▶ and it can be seen that a special religious ceremony was held here, and after that, it was closed forever."

Based on information inscribed on clay tablets, 420 sheep and goats were sacrificed in a special ritual, he said. "This sacred fire temple, that was discovered in the Pasargadae area, was related to the ceremony of honoring the fire at the beginning of the Achaemenid period when the ritual of animal sacrifice was still practiced."

"Pasargadae is beyond what we imagine. It was a summer residence, a recreation area with many gardens and buildings for different purposes," Mousavi said.

"Pasargadae is the oldest Achaemenid historical site. Today, the most prominent work in this area is a building known as the tomb of Cyrus [the Great], but there are other important architectural remains in this area," the archaeologist concluded.

Pasargadae developed into a city of some significance until it was superseded by Darius I's magnificent palace in Persepolis. The key sights on this isolated plain are the Tomb of Cyrus, Darius' Garden, and Cyrus' private palace. Around 500m north of Cyrus' private palace is the remains of the Prison of Solomon (Zendan-e Soleiman), variously thought to be a fire temple, tomb, sundial, or store. On the hill beyond is the Tall-e Takht—a monumental 6000-sq-meter citadel used from Cyrus' time until the late Sassanian period. Local historians believe the references to Solomon date from the Arab conquest when the inhabitants of Pasargadae renamed the sites with Islamic names to prevent their destruction.



Furthermore, the World Heritage site is also home to a complex water supply system for the time that comprises cisterns, tunnels, underground canals, and ducts, which are locally known as qanats.

It is believed that the development of qanats began about 2,500 or 3,000 years ago in Persia (Iran), and the technology spread eastward to Afghanistan and westward to Egypt. Although new qanats are seldom built today, many old qanats are still used in Iran and Afghanistan, chiefly for irrigation.

The 160-ha archaeological site of Pasargadae presents some of the earliest manifestations of Persian art and architecture. It includes, among other monuments, the compact limestone tomb on the Morgab plain that once held Cyrus the Great's gilded sarcophagus; Tall-e Takht ("Solomon's Throne"), a great fortified platform built on a hill and later incorporated into a sprawling citadel

with substantial mud-brick defenses; and the royal ensemble, which consists of several palaces originally located within a garden layout (the so-called "Four Gardens"). Pasargadae became a prototype for the Persian Garden concept of four quadrants formally divided by waterways or pathways, its architecture characterized by refined details and slender verticality.

Pasargadae stands as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid civilization. The vast Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Indus River in India, is considered the first empire to be characterized by a respect for the cultural diversity of its peoples.

Experts believe that Pasargadae represents the first phase of this development, specifically Persian architecture, which later found its full expression in the city of Persepolis.

Mine operations continue despite discovery of centuries-old skeletons

TEHRAN – The Lapalang Mine continues operating despite the discovery of two historical human skeletons, Mehr reported on Monday.

Last October, two centuries-old skeletons were discovered in the historical mine in the mountainous area of Ardestan county, central Isfahan province.

Even though it has become clear to many that this area needs to be explored and more scientific investigations carried out, the mine is still working, and an explosion has occurred there in the last few days, the report added.

The explosions occurred while there is still a lot of hidden information buried in this area and even its soil is valuable to archaeologists.

Moreover, no scientific research has been conducted on the skeletons, which are being kept in Zavareh Museum.

In October 2021, mineworkers found the skeletons accidentally inside canals about 30 meters beneath the surface.

The skeletons were immediately handed over to the Ardestan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department to undergo studies.

The skeletons are considered

"natural mummies" and they mark unparalleled discoveries in the history of Ardestan's civilization.

The site seems to be an abandoned zinc mine that was used in the distant past and the melting furnaces in it date back to the Safavid era (1501–1736), while the structures found in it date back to the Qajar period (1789–1925).

The decorations under the roof of the old mine indicate that it is at least 600 to 1000 years old.

Last November, Ardestan's tourism chief Mehdi Mashhadi announced that part of the site and its canals were destroyed due to the modern operation of machines and extractions in the mine.

Discovery of exotic mummies not unprecedented in the country

The highlights of the findings in the historical mines in Iran are salt mummies. In 1993, miners in the Douzklakh Salt Mine, near Hamzehli and Chehrabad villages in Zanjan Province, accidentally came across a mummified head, dated to 300 CE. The head was very well preserved, to the extent that his pierced ear was still holding the gold earring. The hair, beard, and mustaches were reddish, and his impressive leather

boot still contained parts of his leg and foot, according to the Ancient History Encyclopedia.

However, in 2004, the miners discovered yet another "saltman", which was followed by further excavation of unearthing remains of a human body along with numerous artifacts made of wood, metal tools, clothing, and pottery.

In 2005, a systematic excavation began, three more mummies were excavated, and a sixth remained in situ, due to a lack of funds for its storage. The context of the remains suggested that a collapse in the mine had caused the death of the miners in question.

The first mummy dubbed the "Saltman" is on display in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. He still looks very impressive.

This particular "saltman" was originally dated based on the archaeological material found with him. Later, the mummy was carbon dated, which placed him in 500 CE (1750 BP, that is, "before present" or 1750 years ago), the height of the Sasanian Empire. The second "saltman" was carbon-dated to 1554 BP, which placed him in the same era as the first "saltman", the Sasanian era.

The third, fourth, and fifth

"saltmen" were also carbon-dated. The third body was dated and placed in 2337 BP, the fourth body in 2301 BP, and the fifth mummy was dated to 2286 BP, placing them all in the Achaemenid period.

The individual "Saltmen" have a few secrets of their own, for instance, the first "saltman" that was discovered had blood type B+, and 3D imaging of his skull revealed fractures around his eye and other damage that occurred before death by a hard blow to the head. His clothing (the impressive leather boot) and his gold earring show a person of some rank; the reason for his presence in the mine still remains a mystery.

Saltman No. 5 had tapeworm eggs from the *Taenia* sp. genus in his system. These were identified during the study of his remains. The find indicates the consumption of raw or undercooked meat, and this is the first case of this parasite in ancient Iran and the earliest evidence of ancient intestinal parasites in the area. The best preserved and probably the most harrowing of those salt mummies is Saltman No. 4. A sixteen-year-old miner, caught in the moment of death, crushed by a cave-in.

Golestan to develop rural tourism infrastructure

TEHRAN—Authorities in northern province of Golestan plan to develop the rural tourism infrastructure, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Development of tourism infrastructure will be prioritized in rural areas considering the capacities of the villages, Mohammad Javad Savari explained on Monday.

This could lead to overcoming the deprivation in the villages of the province, the official added.

Tourists can be attracted to the historical texture of the villages, but they must be preserved, revived, and organized, he noted.

By utilizing the potential of rural tourism and ecotourism, the villages' economy could be boosted, he mentioned.

When it comes to rural tourism, Iran, which has many pristine yet diverse natural settings, has many to offer to nature lovers. Ru-

ral tourism as well as agritourism and farm stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities and post-modern travelers who are tracing unique experiences.

Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Rural tourism, most of all, sets the ground for economic development in rural areas by creating additional income and employment. It can also improve the social well-being in rural areas, for instance by stimulating improvements in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity networks.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range

of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus—a one-millennium-old brick tower—amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Minister highlights developing health diplomacy

TEHRAN – Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy, Health Minister Bahram Einoullahi has said.

Last week, Iran hosted the subregional workshop for G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) on health cooperation with the presence of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and the representative of the World Health Organization.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was held in Uzbekistan on 15-16 September, President Ebrahim Raisi signed an agreement with the countries of the Caspian Sea region, according to which the member countries will cooperate with each other in the field of health.

One of the successful aspects of health diplomacy in the region is this cooperation, he said, adding, "We are looking to implement this program in the region as in European countries to facilitate the exchange of students and



professors, and to facilitate their participation in international conferences."

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.

95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

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

Health development

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

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

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and

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

Roads against wildlife

TEHRAN – Some 50 percent of wildlife deaths and 52 percent of Asiatic cheetah deaths are caused by road accidents, an expert at the Department of Environment has said.

A total of 38 cases of Asiatic cheetah deaths have been recorded, of which 19 were due to road accidents, and eight of them were related to the Abbas-Abad road, ISNA quoted Marzieh Mousavi as saying on Monday.

Six cases occurred on the Yazd-Kerman road. There was one case on the Bafq-Bahabad road, one case on the Senkhasht-Jajaam road, one case in Kerman province, and one case on the Naybandan road, she explained.

Turan National Park is a breeding area and an important habitat for cheetahs, that's why the most casualties were related to this road. Years ago, road crashes killed the species on the Kalmard-Bahadran road, but due to the inexistence of cheetahs in the area, no deaths are recorded anymore.

According to this report, 52 percent of cheetah deaths are related to road crashes, and traffic accidents are reported to be the cause of half of all wildlife deaths.

It can be said that roads are a potential threat to wildlife and if the situation continues in this way and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development expands the road network without environmental assessment, casualties will increase and many species will be lost, she lamented.

Referring to the species of leopard that has a mountain habitat, she said that this species is less exposed to road accidents, however, 25 percent of leopard deaths were related to road accidents.

She considered carnivorous species to be more vulnerable to road accidents and added that they are more damaged than herbivores



due to moving between habitats to find prey.

All the eight species of cats in Iran, such as the Pallas cat, jungle cat, wild cat, etc., are damaged by roads. Even the sand cat, which has a desert habitat and is not exposed to roads, is also exposed to traffic accidents, she said.

DOE's actions to reduce wildlife road casualties

To the extent possible, the DOE opposes the construction of new roads, especially those that pass through protected areas, and consults with relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Mousavi noted.

Also, it identified the hot spots of road casualties and urged the relevant departments in each province to secure the road for wildlife to pass through.

At present, small signs do not have the required efficiency, while according to the written instructions, the signs should be prepared based on international standards and be visible, and the installation of speed control cameras and road safety should be implemented based on these standardized protocols, she stated.

In this regard, the Ministry of Transport should also provide assistance and credit for this issue, and before building the road,

it should take environmental considerations into account and take necessary measures in places where overpasses or underpasses are needed.

It is not expected such measures to be taken for all roads, but currently, even on Abbas Abad road, which is the habitat of cheetahs and endangered species, we have not succeeded in building an overpass or underpass and securing the road for animals to pass, she said.

In many cases, we try to carry out evaluation and environmental considerations, but sometimes this does not happen, and after the work is completed, the newly-constructed road will not change and modify, she lamented.

Persian species in danger

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to the alarming degradation of ecosystems, and the deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

Out of 1,300 species of animals in the country, 130 of which are endangered and threatened, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said in December 2021.

748 knowledge-based firms exempted from customs duty

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

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

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



raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

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

Iran, Uzbekistan agree on developing technological cooperation

TEHRAN – The Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan have signed an agreement to broaden cooperation in the field of technology.

On the sidelines of the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was held on September 15-16 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the agreement was signed by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Uzbek Minister of Innovative Development Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov, IRIB reported.

As per the agreement, the two sides pledged to launch joint ventures for manufacturing technological and innovative products and pave the way for exporting Iranian knowledge-based products to Uzbekistan.

In February, Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov announced readiness to develop technological cooperation with Iran.

Good opportunities exist for technological cooperation between the two countries and Uzbekistan is ready to interact with Iran in this field, he said, appreciating Iran's achievements in the field of technology, innovation, and development of knowledge-based firms.

On July 19, a delegation of Iranian knowl-

edge-based companies led by Sorena Sattari, the former vice president for science and technology, headed to Uzbekistan to increase scientific and technological interactions.

The delegation consisted of 40 knowledge-based and creative companies in technological fields such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and health, who tend to develop their market and technological interactions in this region by attending specialized meetings with 150 Uzbek companies.

During the meeting, Sattari said Iran was ready to establish a house of innovation in Uzbekistan in a bid to broaden bilateral cooperation in the field of technology.

The Iranian house of innovation will be established in cooperation with the private sector, IRIB quoted Sattari as saying.

"We are ready to scale up the production of innovative products as part of start-up projects, by financing start-up and scientific projects in the field of biotechnology, creating conditions for joint scientific work of our scientists, as well as commercializing the results of scientific work. I believe that investments in this area will serve to further develop innovative entrepreneurship in accordance with the interests of both countries," he explained, according to the portal of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Innovative Development.

New vice president for science and technology appointed

TEHRAN – Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi was appointed by President Ebrahim Raisi as the new vice president for science and technology on Monday.

Dehqani-Firouzabadi replaced Sourena Sattari who served the position since 2013.

The vice-presidency for science and technol-

ogy was established in 2006 with the aim of promoting wealth creation through enhancing innovation and technology capabilities in the country, improving the ecosystem of innovation and accelerating of the knowledge-based economy, and increasing the share of the knowledge-based economy in the gross domestic product (GDP).

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19: Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

The back-to-school ceremony is officially inaugurated by the president each year, as he rings the bells in a symbolic gesture at a chosen school.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

رنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است. او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه‌های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 19

New cases	726
New deaths	18
Total cases	7,543,548
Total deaths	144,319
New hospitalized patients	131
Patients in critical condition	248
Total recovered patients	7,321,458
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,004,610
Doses of vaccine injected	154,668,018



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SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:58 Evening: 19:23 Dawn: 5:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:51 (tomorrow)

Iran: history of drama

Part 5

Mofid also drew on Persian tales. His Shahr-e Qesseh (City of Tales; Tehran, 1969), perhaps the most popular of all Persian plays, was written in traditional rhythmic style that resulted in a kind of musical drama.

Although it seems at first glance to have been written for children, its main audience, it is in fact a parable about contemporary sociopolitical issues.

Akbar Radi, one of the realist playwrights, set his works in Gilan Province and on the Caspian shores. The critically acclaimed Oful (The Descent; Tehran, 1964) and Sayyadan (The Fishermen; Tehran, 1969; 2nd ed., 1976) established his reputation.

In the former, he focused on the conflict between generations: A young engineer tries to introduce changes on the estate of his wealthy and old-fashioned father-in-law. In Sayyadan, a group of fishermen rise up against a large fishing firm but are defeated.

In Marg dar Pa'iz (Death in the Autumn; Tehran, 1970), Radi dealt with the disintegration and destruction of the way of life of an old farmer and his family, symbolized by the departure of the farmer's son, who fears being drafted into the army, and by the death of the farmer's only horse, which could have helped him work in his old age.

Radi's incorporation of colloquial Persian, especially the dialects of the northern provinces, may also help to preserve threatened aspects of local culture.

Khalaj, whose generally realistic plays are focused on the urban poor, addicts, pimps, and prostitutes, achieved his effects with minimal dialogue.

A typical play is Patoq (The Hangout; Tehran, 1971), set in a teashop in the infamous red-light district of Tehran before the Islamic Revolution.

Hossien, a tough, is in love with the prostitute Zari and wishes to marry her, but she is unfaithful; at the end of the play, he learns that she is having a relationship with one of his old friends.

Khalaj wrote other plays on similar themes. For example, in Golduneh Khanom (Mrs. Golduneh; Tehran, 1971) he experimented with techniques perhaps inspired by the cinema.

A Telegraph for the Shah

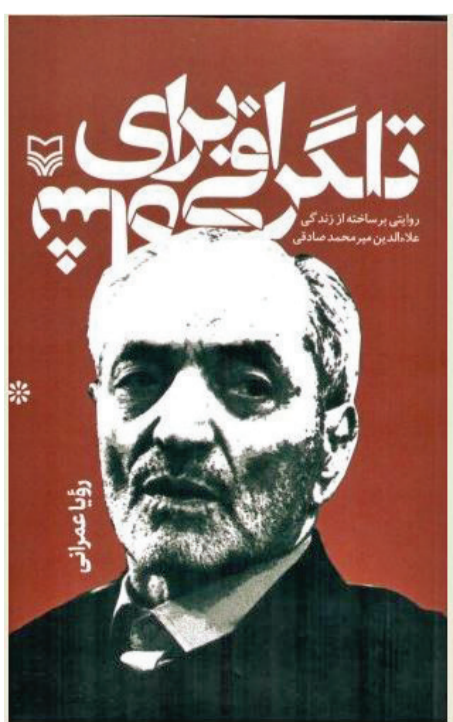
Alaeddin Mir Mohammad Sadeghi and other members of the Islamic Coalition Party are the subject of Roya Omrani's book "A Telegraph for the Shah," which is about their experiences following the murder of Hassan Ali Mansour.

This book tells the story of Alaeddin Mir Mohammad Sadeghi, also known as Haj Agha Ala, an industrial and mining activist and member of Iran's Assembly of Economic Development Activists.

According to the book's author, her subject participated actively in the revolution and underwent a number of experiences, the most significant of which are detailed in the book.

SAVAK erroneously detained Mir Mohammad Sadeghi and other party members. Following the release, they travel to Karbala where they obtain the Marja-i Taqlids' signatures and telegraph the Shah, saving their lives as well as the lives of all party members.

In addition to the primary story's attraction, this story demonstrates the intelligence of the Isfahan people where the action of the story takes place as well as Isfahan culture and accent.



Iran enters into Oscars 2023 with "World War III"

From Page 1 ▶ In a statement for the film, Seyyedi wrote, "Hannah Arendt once said that in dictatorships, everything goes well up until 15 minutes before total collapse."

"Societies ruled by such totalitarian regimes are the most effective creators of anarchists."

"I've always wondered for how much longer there can be tyranny and oppression in the world and who the people are who will be crushed by the powerful rulers of such plagued societies."

"People will fight tooth and nail to obtain their most basic needs - a house, a job and a family. And everything they end up obtaining is nothing but an artificial and decorative façade."

"There will always be those who have the power to give and those who are desperate enough to receive. And this vicious cycle will continue up until 15 minutes before total collapse - and it will restart soon after..."



Mohsen Tanabandeh and several extras act in a scene from "World War III".

"Leila's Brother" director protests film's absence from Iran Oscar submission consideration



"Leila's Brother" by Saeid Rustai.

TEHRAN - Saeid Rustai has criticized Iran's committee following its decision to exclude his film "Leila's Brother" from consideration for selecting the country's submission for the Oscars 2023.

Members of a committee selected by the Farabi Cinema Foundation choose Iran's submission for the Academy Awards every year.

The committee has not yet announced the list of the films it assessed to pick a submission, however, a list published by unofficial sources lacks "Leila's Brothers", which premiered at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival and won the FIPRESCI Prize, the International Film Critics award, at the event.

The Cinema Organization of Iran (COI) banned

"Leila's Brothers" over alleged "law violations" following its premiere at the Cannes festival.

The COI at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance said that the film was submitted to the festival without the observance of the organization's regulations for attending foreign festivals.

Consequently, the COI demanded that Rustai and producer Javad Noruzbeigi make some modifications to the film to gain the organization's approval for a screening of the film at Cannes.

The organization said the producer sent the film to the festival without carrying out the necessary modifications.

However, in an interview published on Monday by the Persian service of ISNA, Rustai said, "We sent the film to Cannes in coordination with the organization."

"But the question is this: why has the film with all its acknowledgments been dismissed at the time when we have to select the country's submission for the Oscars?" he asked.

He said that Wild Bunch, a pan-European company, handles the international sales of his film and has now grossed €700,000 three weeks after its premiere in several countries in Europe.

He also added that 40 countries have purchased the rights to screen "Leila's Brother" and 20 festivals have applied to screen it.

Some Persian news websites quoting anonymous

sources reported that the Farabi committee is assessing a list of films that includes "The Situation of Mehdi", "Zalava", "World War III", "No Prior Appointment" and "Beyond the Wall".

"The Situation of Mehdi" is a film by Hadi Hejazifard that portrays part of the life story of Mehdi Bakeri, the chief of IRGC 31st Shura Division.

The film had its premiere in Tehran during the 40th Fajr Film Festival, which honored it as best film. The film brought Hejazifard the award for best directorial debut.

"Zalava" directed by Arsalan Amiri won the grand prize at the 2021 Venice International Film Critics' Week.

In its world premiere last week, "World War III" garnered the Orizzonti Award for Best Film for director Hooman Seyyedi and the best actor award for Mohsen Tanabandeh at the 2022 Venice Film Festival.

Directed by Behruz Shoeibi, "No Prior Appointment" won the Golden Saint George for best film at the 44th Moscow International Film Festival. It also brought Pegah Ahangarni the Silver Saint George for best actress.

"Beyond the Wall" by Vahid Jalilvand was screened in the main competition of the 2022 Venice Film Festival. However, it failed to win an award.

The deadline for submissions to the Academy Awards is October 3, 2022.

Iranian movies line up for Italy's Tour Film Festival

TEHRAN - Eight Iranian movies will be competing in the International Tour Film Festival in Italy.

The 11th edition of the festival is scheduled to take place from October 4 to 8 in Rome.

"Time to Lose" by Mohammadreza Beheshti, "Mr. Man" by Amir-Hossein Ajali, "Swell" by Keyvan Sarvari and "Desolation" by Alisam Sadeqi will be screened in the fiction section.

"Dubai Is a Diamond" by Mohammad Mohammadian will compete in the tourism section.

It is an experimental documentary short film about Dubai city made entirely out of stock footage videos.

The tourism section is dedicated to films that promote tourism in its many aspects, including tourism promotion of the country, region or city, sports tourism, adventure, nautical tourism, food tourism, religious tourism, and promotion of cultural activities and fairs.

"Dot" by Mohammad Zare' has been chosen to be screened in the animation competition.

"Laboratory No.2" by Edris Abdi and Aware Omer, and "Felting" by Ehsan Amiri will be shown in the documentary section

To what extent are we just waiting for death to arrive? This is the underlying question in "Laboratory No. 2" produced in Iraqi Kurdistan. Narrating the life of an employee working in the autopsy department of a university, the film sets out to observe the day-to-day life of this elderly worker who deals with corpses on a daily basis. As he works, he waits for death.

The International Tour Film Festival is an international competition open to short, medium and feature films.

It is promoted and organized by the CivitaFilm Cultural Association in collaboration with the Municipality of Civitavecchia (Rome), the Lazio Region and Enel.

Juries composed of leading operators in the cinematographic sector and television, communication and entertainment will award the winners in various categories.

"The Semiotics of Emoji" published in Persian

TEHRAN - "The Semiotics of Emoji: The Rise of Visual Language in the Age of the Internet" by Marcel Danesi has been published in Persian.

Farameh is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Masud Taqiyabadi and Yaman Hekmat.

Emojis have gone from being virtually unknown to being a central topic in internet communication. What is behind the rise of these winky faces, clinking glasses and smiling poos? Given the sheer variety of verbal communication on the internet and English's still-controversial role as lingua mundi for the web, these icons have emerged as a compensatory universal language.

"The Semiotics of Emoji" looks at what is officially the world's fastest-growing form of communication.

Emoji, the colorful symbols and glyphs that represent everything from frowning disapproval to red-faced shame, are fast becoming embedded into digital communication.

Controlled by a centralized body and regulated across the web, emoji seems to be a language: but is it? The rapid adoption of emojis in such a short span of time makes for a rich study in exploring the functions of language.

Professor Danesi, an internationally-known expert in semiotics, branding and communication, answers the pertinent questions. Are emojis making us dumber? Can they ultimately replace language? Will people grow up emoji literate as well as digitally native? Can there be such a thing as a Universal Visual Language? Read this book for the answers.

Danesi is a professor of semiotics and linguistic anthropology at the University of Toronto. He is known for his work in language, communications and semiotics and is the director of the program in semiotics and communication theory.

He has also held positions at Rutgers University, University of Rome "La Sapienza", the Catholic University of Milan and the University of Lugano.

He is the editor-in-chief of Semiotica, the official



Cover of the Persian edition of Marcel Danesi's book "The Semiotics of Emoji".

journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies, and is a past president of the Semiotic Society of America.

Danesi regularly contributes to global discussions on semiotics and human behaviors with appearances including a discussion on kissing on The Deep Cover Show with Damien Dynan and the origins of puzzles in Best Health magazine.