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Raisi Wraps Up Successful Visit to New York

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Report

Queen's funeral helped tip UK into recession

The Bank of England raised interest rates after saying the country was already in recession partly because of the extra public holiday for the queen's funeral.

The interest rate hike to 2.25% from 1.75% is the highest level seen since the global financial crisis in 2008 and will have a major impact on millions of people's finances.

The Bank of England claims the rise has been implemented to help ease inflation in the long run but it is the seventh increase in a row since the UK came out of the covid lockdown and adds to the cost of living crisis.

It is widely expected that more hikes are on the way with the bank admitting it would "respond forcefully, as necessary" to inflation which it is now forecasting to peak at just under 11% in October and to remain at above 10% throughout the winter.

The central bank's decision will hit homeowners with a mortgage the most as they will now be paying extra monthly repayments as a result on top of other rising bills. Other households and small businesses who have taken out loans from banks, including car loans, will also suffer from paying higher monthly bills.

Struggling families have certainly not seen the worst yet with markets predicting the central bank to hike interest rates until they peak at a massive 4.5% next year.

While the British economy moving into crisis mode territory may not exactly surprise many economists, not all saw a recession forecast coming. But the bank says it expects the UK's gross domestic product to shrink by 0.1% in the third quarter of this year. That is two consecutive quarters of contraction.

The central bank said the additional public holiday to mark the day of the queen's state funeral will now partly contribute to a negative growth figure for the three-month period.

Critics say the 24-hour media coverage by British state media helped erase the financial crisis from the minds of some ordinary households who will be the ones paying the price with taxpayers' money. ▶ Page 5

Iran edge Uruguay in friendly

TEHRAN - Iran national football team edged past Uruguay in a friendly match thanks to the Mehdi Taremi's second half goal on Friday.

Substitute Taremi opened the solitary goal of the match in the 79th minute at the NV Arena in Sankt Pölten, Austria.

Darwin Nunez and Luiz Suarez made some scoring chances but Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand kept a clean sheet in the first half.

Substitute Amir Abedzadeh also did brilliantly to save the goal in the second half.

Iran, headed by Carlos Queiroz, are scheduled to meet Senegal on Tuesday.

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

Iran will take on England on Nov. 21 and meet Wales and the U.S on Nov. 25 and 29, respectively.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18.



TEHRAN — Tens of thousands of Friday prayer attendees rallied in Tehran and other cities across Iran to condemn violation of Islamic sanctities as well as recent turmoil and unrest.

In the capital Tehran people condemned insulting the Holy Quran, disrespecting the Islamic dress code for women and setting fire to

mosques by rioters.

The demonstrators moved from the University of Tehran's Friday prayer site to Enghelab Square in downtown Tehran.

During the rally, they yelled chants condemning individuals who violated Islamic laws.

The protesters screamed chants to express their outrage at recent disturbances and degradation.

The tragic death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old girl who passed while she was in morality police's custody provoked protests, which were marred by some disturbances and desecrations. ▶ Page 2

Iran to resume electricity export to Turkey soon

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has said Tehran is going to resume electricity export to Turkey in the near future, the portal of Iran's Energy Ministry Paven reported on Friday.

Mehrabian made the remarks on the side-

lines of a one-day visit to Ankara during which he met with Turkey's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Vahit Kirisci.

After the meetings with the Turkish ministers, Mehrabian pointed out the agreements

regarding the export of electricity from Iran to Turkey and noted: "Recently, with the investment of the Turkish side, some facilities have been established in the city of Van that provides the possibility of transmitting electricity from Iran to Turkey on a back-to-back basis." ▶ Page 4



Iran unveils new precision-guided missile
TEHRAN — During a military parade on Thursday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Division unveiled for the first time a precision-guided and state-of-the-art ballistic missile with a medium range named Rezvan. The missile is capable of entering the atmosphere with a speed that is eight times higher than the acoustic velocity, according to Hossein Salami, the IRGC chief.

In Gilan, splendid backdrops, old sites and new food beckon

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Gilan offers picturesque landscapes ranging from forested cliffs to sandy beaches, and is known for its rich cultural heritage, local dishes, and most of all, its hospitable people.

According to the latest available data, compiled by the tourism ministry, the lush green province recorded some 17 million overnight stays, mainly by domestic travelers, in the first five months of the current Iranian cal-

endar year (March 21-August 22).

Rasht, the provincial capital which sprawling on the Caspian Sea coast, is known as the city of silver rains. The city typically welcomes between 12 and 15 million visitors every year and is one of the most popular holiday destinations among Iranians.

A jewel on the green belt of woods, Gilan is situated west of Mazandaran province, east of Ardabil, and north of the provinces of Zanjan and Qazvin. It also borders the Republic of

Azerbaijan in the north. Gilan is one of the most important rice and vegetable producers in the country due to its humid and rainy climate.

Here is a choice of Gilan's vacation spots that generally comprises of inimitable scenes of nature and folkloric culture.

Shahrdari square

Shahrdari square is the thumping heart of Rasht and quite possibly of its most significant fascination. ▶ Page 6

Top Iranian military commander cautions Azerbaijan, UAE

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian commander has warned that the Islamic Republic will not tolerate changes in regional borders and will not remain silent in the face of such a scenario.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, stated on Thursday that Iran encourages both the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia to resolve their disputes through dialogue, reiterating Tehran's position that the Islamic Republic will not endure regional states resorting to "military conflict".

Speaking during a military parade near the Imam Khomeini mausoleum in southern Tehran, the commander urged the neighboring states to end the hostilities and begin talks.

He also warned the Persian Gulf region's southern littoral states (an indirect reference to the UAE and Bahrain) to be wary of the Zionist regime's schemes, stressing that the Zionists' presence in the region will affect security and that the Iranian armed forces will monitor the enemy's movements in order to respond to their threats.

Bagheri also stated that Iran desires a West Asian region free of threats and full of friendliness and cooperation, but that the US and the Zionist regime pose a threat to regional security.

The Iranian armed forces, including the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and other military units, are determined to repel any threats and conspiracies, he said, adding that opponents' miscalculations will be punished severely.

Iran to hold joint naval drill with China, Russia

The top commander also announced a coordinated naval exercise in the northern Indian Ocean between Iran, Russia, and China "this autumn".

Other countries, including Oman and Pakistan, may participate in the drills, according to Bagheri, who did not provide any details.

Iran's Oscar submission "World War III" to compete in Tokyo festival

TEHRAN - "World War III", Iran's submission to the international feature award at the 2023 Oscars, will be competing in the 35th Tokyo International Film Festival.

The winner of the Orizzonti Award for Best Film at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Italy will be screened in the official competition of the festival, which will take place from October 24 to November 2 in the Japanese capital.

At Venice, the film also won Mohsen Tanabandeh the award for best actor for his portrayal of 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 for a film about the atrocities committed by Hitler during WWII. ▶ Page 8

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Raisi emphasizes protecting international borders in meeting with Armenian PM

TEHRAN— Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi underscored the importance of preserving international borders when he met Armenian Premier Nikol Pashinyan on Thursday in New York.

Raisi told Pashinyan that Iran emphasizes guarding joint and international borders and respecting other countries' sovereignty, as well as preventing any kind of change in the region's political geography.

According to the president, negotiation and dialogue are the only way out of current dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"As we stressed in the Shanghai summit, the region cannot tolerate a new war," Raisi added.

Calling the borders between Iran and Armenia historical, the president noted that protecting

these important, strategic borders is significant for political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Iran has already announced with an unequivocal voice that it will not accept any change in its borders with Armenia. Leader of the Islamic Revolution made this statement in separate meetings with Russian President Putin and Turkish President Erdogan while visiting Iran in July.

For his part, Pashinyan said, "We will protect our entire land and territories and stand against any conspiracy aimed at separating Iran and Armenia."

He also appreciated Iran's clear positions towards protecting the territorial integrity of Armenia.

Tehran seeks closer cooperation with Belgrade

TEHRAN — Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met on Thursday with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic in New York, stressing the need to increase political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Raisi said it is necessary to abandon racial and discriminatory approaches in the path towards establishing peace in the world.

He added, "The root cause of the past catastrophes and conflicts in the Balkans was the prevalence of racial approaches. We hope in the new era, peace and friendship will be established

and the rights of all races and religions are preserved."

For his part, the Serbian president appreciated Raisi for agreeing to meet with him and described Serbia as an independent country in Europe that does not follow the West's policies.

Vucic also said protecting peace in the Balkans as one of his country's policies.

He then noted, "We favor development of relations with Iran in all political and economic fields."

UN chief affirms Iran's position on regional dialogue

TEHRAN — Continuing his consultations on the fourth day of his trip to New York, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met with Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations on Thursday.

During the meeting, the president emphasized the importance of the UN's position in giving nations a role to solve their problems and prevent foreign interference in their internal affairs.

"The United Nations should be the true meaning of the organization of nations, not the organization of powers," Raisi was quoted as saying to the UN chief, according to president.ir.

The president went on to say that Iran has been a friend of its neighbors in difficult times and referred to Iran's humanitarian move in hosting Afghan immigrants and its serious fight against terrorism as a great danger to the region and the larger world.

Instead, Raisi said, "NATO and the United States have been the source of war, destruction, occupation and killing in our region."

Referring to the current crises in some regional countries, the president said solution to all these conflicts lies in national dialogue without foreign interference, noting it is necessary for the UN to play a more serious role against "unilateralist behaviors".

Emphasizing Iran's support for regional dialogue to resolve issues between countries, Raisi told the UN chief, "If justice and fairness are implemented from this position, you will leave a great name behind in the history of this world organization."

For his part, Guterres appreciated the continuous



actions of Iran in hosting Afghan refugees.

He also praised Iran's role in the Yemeni ceasefire.

The UN chief also touched upon the negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the 2015 nuclear deal, saying, "The withdrawal of the United States from the nuclear agreement was an unconstructive and very distressing action."

Guterres also described Iran's initiative to create a framework for regional dialogue as constructive, saying the UN backs it. The world's chief diplomat also backed Tehran's position that human rights "should not be used as a tool and pretext for war against countries."

The UN secretary general also expressed his displeasure over failure to suspend sanctions on Iran despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Guterres called Iran a country with ancient civilization that is an indispensable and undeniable part of today's world.

The UN chief also said Iran's views regarding solving problems in Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Afghanistan by their own people "are reasonable".

Ireland proposes mediation to revive JCPOA

TEHRAN — Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian at the latter's residence in New York on Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments related to bilateral ties and ways to expand relations in various commercial, economic and political fields. The also held talks over events in the world as well as the talks to remove sanctions on Iran by reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA), commonly called the 2015 nuclear deal.

The Irish foreign minister emphasized his country's interest in deepening relations with Iran.

Referring to the current developments in Europe, Coveney said there is a great desire to diversify business and economic relations.

The Irish foreign minister also said that he is ready to mediate in reaching an agreement between Iran and the world powers, stating that Dublin will not spare any efforts.

He stated that reaching an agreement is a good opportunity for all parties as well as the

international community.

In turn, Amir Abdollahian expressed his satisfaction with the level of contacts made between the officials of the two countries, mentioning many capacities that are available to expand relations between the two states.

The Iranian foreign minister added there are no obstacles to all-out promotion of relations between the two countries and said it is necessary to further expand bilateral relations through diplomatic, parliamentary and economic contacts.

Amir Abdollahian stressed that Tehran is ready to reach a good and lasting agreement.

However, he said that a good and lasting agreement requires the necessary goodwill, realism and will on the part of the United States and the three European governments, namely France, UK and Germany.

Iran's top diplomat emphasized that in light of the nuclear agreement, unilateral sanctions against Iran must be lifted and accusations against Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must be come to an end.

U.S. claims of goodwill contradicts concurrent sanctions: Raisi

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has stressed that it is extremely absurd for U.S. officials to say that they are willing to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal to lift sanctions on Iran while simultaneously moving to impose additional sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with a group of top media moguls on Thursday morning at the beginning of the fourth day of his trip to New York, to answer their questions and discuss the opinions and stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian president also reiterated Tehran's position by saying that his country sees no point in a deal that did not close investigations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on claims of undeclared nuclear sites, saying such claims are being fabricated by Israel.

"The safeguards claims against Iran based on the claims of the Zionist regime, which is based on the experience of their sabotage and conspiratorial actions against Iran's nuclear facilities, are fundamentally invalid," the president insisted.

Iran says it has already provided answers to such questions by the IAEA.

"Re-introduction of similar claims that have already been investigated and declared baseless by the IAEA is considered a mere political excuse to delay the revival of the agreement."

Negotiations started in April 2021 to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, after President Joe Biden announced his administration's desire to rejoin the deal.

About Iran's demands regarding the nuclear issue, the president responded, "America withdrew from the agreement and the Europeans refused to fulfill their obligations towards it, while the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to (repeated) official reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency as a monitoring body, was fully fulfilling its obligations."

Raisi added, "We once experienced the United States' withdrawal from the agreement, and as a result we announced that they should provide reliable and reassuring guarantees to prevent this experience from repeating."

The president said, "Our nuclear activities have been under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency for years, and there is no mention of violations of regulations in the Agency's reports," underscoring

that Iran likewise wants the alleged safeguards concerns to be resolved once and for all.

Raisi described the IAEA's approach toward Iran's nuclear activities as political and non-technical that are influenced by Western and Zionist pressure.

"The safeguards claims against Iran are based on the claims of the Zionist regime, which based on the experience of their sabotage and conspiratorial actions against Iran's nuclear facilities, are fundamentally invalid, and re-introduction of similar claims that have already been investigated and declared baseless by the IAEA is considered a mere political excuse to delay the revival of the agreement."

The president went on to say, "If the safeguards case related to the past are not resolved once and for all, what guarantee is there that shortly after the agreement, Western countries will not organize actions against Iran based on these claims?"

"Every individual and group need certainty and predictability for their economic activity, but if these claims remain open, businesspersons and economic enterprises face uncertainty for their activities with Iran," the president asserted.

"Therefore, achieving a logical and fair agreement depends on providing reliable and reassuring guarantees, closing the case of alleged safeguards issues and permanently lifting the sanctions," the president emphasized.

When asked why he would not engage in direct negotiations with the United States, the president responded, "We have experienced direct negotiation with America and we have found that there is no benefit from it. If the Americans are telling the truth and are honest, they should fulfill their obligations."

Asked how the current American government can guarantee Iran's rights on behalf of the future governments, Raisi responded, "Are the obligations of the countries in bilateral, regional and international stages the responsibility of the head of the government or the that government is the legal representative for a nation and a political system? If it is done as you say, the issue of interactions and agreements between countries or the interaction of countries in the framework of treaties and international organizations will no longer have any validity."

The president made it clear that Iran's government's approach to bilateral and global relations



is based on interaction with all friendly nations with a focus on neighbors and regional countries.

Asked for a mediation by Iran to end the Ukraine war, he said, "We are against all forms of violence and conflict in light of the tragic experience of the 8-year war we experienced, and we will use all of our influence and contacts to stop this fight!"

"The 8-year war" refers to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran in September 1980 that lasted until the summer of 1988.

In response to a question about the Islamic Republic's position on the Zionist regime and the Palestinian issue, the president stated, "The Palestinian people of different religions lived in their ancestral land for thousands of years, but their homes and houses

"We have experienced direct negotiation with America and we have found that there is no benefit from it. If the Americans are telling the truth and are honest, they should fulfill their obligations."

have been occupied for 70 years and they are displaced in their own land or like Gaza where their place of residence has turned into a massive prison.

"The solution to this problem is not agreements like Camp David, Sharm el-Sheikh or Oslo, because these agreements could not solve the problem of the ancestral inhabitants of this land and provide their rights," Raisi pointed out.

Raisi pointed to an initiative by

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a solution to the decades-long conflict in the occupied territories.

Ayatollah Khamenei has suggested a referendum with the participation of original inhabitants of Palestine, including Jews, Christians and Muslims, to determine the fate of their country.

Raisi said the initiative by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has been registered as a document in the UN Security Council and is completely compatible with Western countries' claims of support for democracy.

"Holding a free election with the participation of all Palestinians, regardless of whether they are Jews, Christians or Muslims, will lead to the establishment of a government that can solve the problems of the Palestinians and guarantee their rights," the president insisted.

The president added, "Relying on the opinion and will of the people of each country can also solve the problem of Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan. Therefore, the problem of these countries should be resolved through dialogue and understanding between the people of these countries, and foreign interference in their affairs should be seriously avoided because their people can decide for their own future."

Raisi responded to another question about the circumstances surrounding the death of a young woman in Iran, saying, "The cause of this incident is being investigated by legal and specialized authorities, and I prefer that the cause of the case be investigated through competent authorities."

"Every day in various countries, including the United States and European countries, we see that men and women lose their lives by the police, but there is no sensitivity for finding the cause and deal with such acts of violence," the president said, lambasting the West's deeply double standards on the issue of human rights.

Parties to Astana dialogue hold informal meeting in New York

TEHRAN — A trilateral meeting was held on Wednesday between foreign ministers of the countries that are parties to the Astana process on the developments in Syria.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York.

The meeting, which was attended by the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia and Turkey as well as UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen, the participants reviewed the latest developments as well as political and humanitarian initiatives in Syria.

At the meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Tehran believes, as in the past, that the Syrian crisis has no military solution.

The crisis can be settled through a political process and in accordance with the principles of international law, he said.

Among the vital rudiments for achieving that goal are an end to occupation and a withdrawal of the foreign forces illegally present in Syria and respect for the Arab country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he added.

Iran's top diplomat pointed to the significance of the tasks of the Syrian Constitutional Committee and stressed the economic and humanitarian situation in Syria and the negative impact of sanctions on the livelihoods of ordinary people.

He also called for a removal of the sanctions and obstacles and for an increase in humanitarian aid supply to all Syrians all over the country.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers of the guarantors of the Astana process once again emphasized their commitment to respecting Syria's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Iran unites to condemn violence, desecration of Islamic values

From page 1 ▶ The Iranian people reacted to the sacrilege in other towns and regions to demonstrate their support for the Islamic Revolution and its ideals.

Nevertheless, people of Iran are affectionately mourning the tragic death of the 22-year-old girl, while they have asked top Iranian officials to fully and transparently investigate her death. They are asking Iranian police, president, parliament speaker, and judiciary

chief for explanations, as well as observing true justice to whoever caused the tragic incident.

Iran's top officials have responded positively to the legitimate request of the people and Mahsa's family, vouching to pursue the case rapidly.

President Ebrahim Raisi called Amini's family and had a fairly lengthy conversation with her father. "Your daughter and all Iranian girls are my children," Raisi

said, condoling her father. Raisi also said, "I learned about this incident during my trip to Uzbekistan, and I immediately ordered my colleagues to investigate the matter in a specific manner. I assure you that I will follow this issue from the responsible institutions so that all its aspects are clarified and no rights are violated."

Iranian parliament has set up a committee to thoroughly investigate the unfortunate incident, according

to Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

Worshippers from Mazandaran, Kerman, Zahedan, Isfahan, South Khorasan, Bushehr, Qazvin, Hormozgan, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Varamin, Pakdasht, Yasuj, and Rasht participated in demonstrations to condemn recent attacks on religious sanctuaries, calling on judiciary officials to arrest and bring the assailants to justice.

'True violators of human rights do not have necessary moral merits to comment on human rights'

TEHRAN – Iran on Thursday strongly criticized Israel for occupying the Palestinian territories and castigated the true violators of human rights.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Twitter that referendum is a democratic solution to the Palestinian question.

He said, "Escaping from hearing the realities will not help the apartheid regime. The reality is that Palestine, from 'Sea to River,' belongs to the original inhabitants of this holy land."

The spokesman added, "Iran believes in a unified Palestine, and the democratic solution to the Palestine issue lies in a resort to the votes of all of its original inhabitants, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, through a referendum."

The tweet came after Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly in which he addressed the issue of Palestine.

Addressing the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday morning local time, Ayatollah Raisi said, "I would like to draw your attention to one of the sad manifestations of injustice, which is the source of all crises in the region. Contemporary history has not seen a nation more oppressed than Palestine and crueler than the occupying regime in Al-Quds."

He continued, "The Zionist regime, which has more than seventy years of apartheid, oppression and murder of women and children in its dark history, has built the largest prison on earth in Gaza, and the continuation of settlement construction and the images of the oppressed Palestinians crying due to the usurpation of their lands, homes and farms, and the killing of their children, show everyone that seven decades of oppression and



occupation by Israel is not over."

Raisi said, "Governments claiming freedom and democracy must answer why they are running away from the clear and fair formula of the Islamic Republic to solve the Palestinian issue? In oppressed Palestine, we believe in the policy of a single Palestine. All the land of Palestine "from the sea to the river" belongs to the original inhabitants of this historic and holy land. The solution to the Palestinian issue is only to refer to the votes of all Palestinians, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, in the form of holding a comprehensive referendum."

He stated, "The occupying regime of Al-Quds, which continues to occupy the territories of other countries in the region, cannot be a partner in peace and security."

Kanaani said the speech delivered by the Iranian president was the voice of countries seeking justice.

"The speech delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran's President to the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly was the voice of the freedom-seeking countries' pursuit of justice and rights," the spokesman said on Twitter.

He added, "The true violators of human rights do not have necessary moral merits to comment on human rights."

In the speech, Raisi addressed the issue of human rights, saying, "We believe in a common destiny for humanity and support the universalization of justice. We wish for others what we like for ourselves and we do not impose on others what we do not like for ourselves. The Iranian nation believes that justice creates unity, and oppression creates war."

He added, "If a country claims justice inside itself, but abroad, it trains all kinds of terrorists and kills the nations, or forces the nations to surrender by imposing various pressures, it should be a shame for humanity, freedom, and justice. Humanity is not exclusive to a part of human beings, and human rights are not conceived except by securing the rights of all human beings."

Raisi noted, "Inspired by religious beliefs and based on the spirit and text of its constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has one of the most efficient mechanisms in the protection of human rights, and with the most effective tools, considers

the fulfilment of the violated rights of each person as a human mission, a sovereign responsibility, and a divine duty delegated to it by the people. The Islamic Republic considers the double standards of some governments in the field of human rights as the most important factor in the institutionalisation of human rights violations, which results in diverse and numerous positions towards an incident under investigation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the deathly silence about the killing of dozens of helpless women in a short time in one of the western countries. As long as this double standards persists, human rights will not be safe from repeated violations."

The Iranian president said, "Above human rights, the rights of nations are easily trampled by oppressive powers. The right of Canadian indigenous communities whose children were buried in mass graves in schoolyards instead of school classes; the right to self-determination of the Palestinian nation, the right to development of nations under sanctions, the right to life of nations under occupation or victims of terrorism, the right to life of homeless refugees who keep children in cages separate from their mothers and fathers; all of them show that the position of the claimant and the accused in the issue of human rights should not be changed and that the real violators of human rights do not have the necessary moral competence to comment on human rights."

He pointed out, "Iran's unique role in the destruction of ISIS, which only one of its crimes was enslaving Kurdish, Yazidi and Christian women, is enough to show that we are in the position of the claimant and defender of human rights, and the supporters of ISIS are in the position of the accused."

Raisi wraps up successful diplomatic visit to New York

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi wrapped up a trip to New York in which he successfully advanced Iranian diplomacy and broadened Iran's foreign interactions.

After a four-day stint in New York, President Raisi left the American megalopolis for the Iranian capital on Friday. During the stint, the president had busy days meeting and talking with world leaders, putting on display Iran's interactions with the international community.

The New York visit was another indication that Iran is not isolated and enjoys growing relations with the world. This has also been on full display just before Raisi headed to New York. Before departing for the annual UN General Assembly gathering, Raisi traveled to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, for an important summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in which the process of Iran's membership in the bloc was initiated.

"Certainly, with the active and effective presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, this

membership will be recorded as one of the most important developments in the history of this organization," President Raisi said in a speech delivered at the summit.

The president went to New York shortly after visiting Samarkand. In New York, he met many leaders and delivered a strongly-worded speech at the UN General Assembly.

In his New York meetings, the Iranian president addressed many regional and global issues. He made sure to explain Iran's positions on many issues, including the Palestinian question and the 2015 nuclear deal. In the speech he delivered at the General Assembly, Raisi reiterated Iran's longstanding solution to the issue of Palestine. He said this issue can be solved by referring to the votes of the people of Palestine. "The solution to the Palestinian issue is only to refer to the votes of all Palestinians, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, in the form of holding a comprehensive referendum," he said.

As regards the nuclear deal, President Raisi made it clear that Iran's demand regarding guarantees is genuine and the key to reaching an agreement in

Vienna. "Iran's negotiation logic based on a fair analysis of developments is only one sentence: 'adherence to commitments'. Reassuring assurances are not just about preparing for a contingency. We are talking about an experience. We have before us the experience of America's withdrawal from the JCPOA and the delay of the current American government in returning to its commitments for more than a year and a half," he said.

In addition, Raisi also addressed the issue of the safeguards probe pursued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In a meeting with American foreign policy think tank experts, he emphasized that from the beginning we declared that we are in favor of negotiations with the aim of reaching a fair and reasonable agreement and not negotiations for the sake of negotiations, according to a readout by the Iranian presidency.

Pointing out that no one has described Iran's demands as unreasonable, President Raisi said, "The next point is, how long are the safeguards issues going to be abused as a pressure lever against Iran? How many cases have been opened in this field and each time it was announced that the claims made in it were not true?"

Bagheri Kani meets British diplomat in New York

TEHRAN – Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, met in New York with Stephen Hickey, a British Political Coordinator at the UN in New York.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Bagheri Kani spoke of Iran's serious determination to secure the country's national interests in negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Earlier, Iran's chief negotiator met with the European Union coordinator for the Vienna talks, Enrique Mora, and they reviewed the process of negotiations to lift sanctions, according to AlAlam.

As part of his diplomatic activities to revive the nuclear agreement, the Iranian deputy foreign minister also held talks in New York with representatives of the Netherlands and the European Union.

In the two meetings, Bagheri reaffirmed Iran's serious determination to pursue sustainable commitments and adhere to the commitments if the nuclear agreement is revived.

These meetings were held Thursday

on the sidelines of the 77th Summit of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Iranian chief negotiator also met with Qatari and Swiss officials. "Iran's clear logic is the need to provide sustainable commitments in the negotiation process and stick to commitments on the part of the Western side," Bagheri Kani said in these meetings.

Bagheri Kani, along with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, accompanied President Ebrahim Raisi in his trip to New York.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Raisi went over the details of the history of the nuclear deal. He said, "The Islamic Republic accepted an agreement in 2015 in good faith and with a solid intention and fulfilled all its commitments in the first place, but the result was America breaking its promise and imposing sanctions which, according to their own admission, were the most unprecedented sanctions in history. Sanctions are a punishment for seeking justice and independence of the Iranian nation. Sanction is a weapon of mass murder, and accompanying or remaining silent

towards it is aiding and abetting oppression," he said, adding, "It was America that left the agreement, not Iran. The International Atomic Energy Agency stated 15 times in its reports that Iran has fully adhered to the provisions of the agreement."

He noted, "At the same time, Iran has paid the cost of complying with its obligations, but due to the violation of the promise of the American side and the non-compliance of the European side, Iran has not enjoyed the benefits of this agreement."

President Raisi continued, "Based on the capacities seen in the agreement, we took legal measures so that the violating party returns to its obligations. By adhering to its obligations, Iran has been the main axis of the JCPOA's survival, and if it were not for the initiatives and flexibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the negotiations would have stopped in the first days. Iran's negotiation logic based on a fair analysis of developments is only one sentence: 'adherence to commitments'. Reassuring assurances are not just about preparing for a contingency. We are talking about an experience.

We have before us the experience of America's withdrawal from the JCPOA and the delay of the current American government in returning to its commitments for more than a year and a half. Today, when the American government is talking about its intention to return to its obligations, another voice is heard from inside that country, which questions the commitment of the United States. With that experience and this perspective, can we act with tolerance in the important issue of ensuring the stability of the agreement?"

He stated, "Of course, the Islamic Republic, with its vast facilities and wide connections with the world, has neutralized the effects of sanctions one after another and created new opportunities. According to the official admission of the U.S. government, the policy of maximum pressure against Iran has failed shamefully. We will find our way regardless of any agreement and continue with strength. Besides, in the serious negotiations we have had, we have shown that if the interests of the Iranian nation are guaranteed, we have a strong will to solve this issue fairly. We believe that the knot of the nuclear agreement should be untied from the place where it was tied."

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Queiroz can make an immediate impact on Iran squad

TEHRAN – Iran's prospects of reaching the knockout round of the World Cup for the first time were given a huge boost with the recent return of Carlos Queiroz as coach.

This year's tournament will be the third consecutive World Cup with the Portuguese at the helm of Team Melli, and they will certainly take heart from their displays last time out -- when they narrowly missed out on progressing by just a point from a daunting group that also included Spain and Portugal, ESPN reported.

The reappointment of Queiroz is one that has been welcomed by fans but also players, not just because of the regard they held him in previously but also because several senior members of the team were believed to have had uneasy relationships with his predecessor Dragan Skocic.

Queiroz has wasted no time in recalling some of his favorites and the Iran squad is one brimming with talent and experience in Europe-based names such as Mehdi Taremi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Sardar Azmoun.

Both Iran and their returning coach can make an immediate statement in upcoming games against quality opposition in Uruguay and Senegal.

Iran to play Indonesia in 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup Opener

TEHRAN – Group C of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Kuwait 2022 promises to be a thriller with Iran the obvious main draw.

Lebanon, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia, however, will relish the opportunity of locking horns with the 12-time champion.

This may be a new look Iran squad, with four-time AFC Futsal Player of the Year Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh not in the team, but Iran will be the clear favorite in the group.

Iran will start the campaign with a match against Indonesia on September 28.

Team Melli will also play Chinese Taipei and Lebanon on September 30 and October 2, respectively.

Alireza Dabir opens up on Mohammad Bana's resignation

TEHRAN – Alireza Dabir, head of the Iran Wrestling Federation, reacted to the results of the country's national Greco-Roman wrestling team by saying, "If we want to have no problem in Greco-Roman wrestling, we need to localize it in our country."

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers ended the 2022 World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, Serbia without winning a single gold medal and ranked fourth with just two silvers and one bronze and a total of 81 points.

"We must increase the number of Greco-Roman wrestlers in Iran to localize it. The number of freestylers is much more than the GrecoRoman wrestlers," said Dabir in an interview with Iran state-run TV.

"The second problem, in my opinion, is related to the youth categories in the Iranian wrestling clubs," he added.

Iran's Greco-Roman team won four gold medals in the previous edition Norway. It was ranked second in the team table by a small margin compared to the champions Russia. But Mohammad Bana's team had a disappointing and unexpected performance in Serbia.

Bana resigned from his role shortly after the 2022 World Championships, and Hasan Rangraz replaced him in the position.

"We trusted Mr. Bana because he has proved his capabilities throughout his brilliant career. I thank Mohammad Bana and his staff for their efforts in the national team. Bana told me he was exhausted. He didn't want to continue anymore,"

said the gold medal winner of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

"Let's not forget that the previous federation finished 11th with the Greco-Roman team in the 2018 World Championships. They handed over that team to me when I took the federation's presidency.

"Mr. Bana led the same team to second place in the 2021 world championships in Norway.

"Moreover, we have won three medals in this year's tournament, and I believe our wrestles were unlucky, and Iran deserved at least one gold medal in Belgrade," concluded Alireza Dabir.

Iran's opponents lose in Pre-World Cup matches

TEHRAN – Wales and the U.S. football teams suffered loss in the pre-World Cup matches.

Wales lost to Belgium 2-1 in Brussels in the Nations League Thursday night.

Kevin De Bruyne and Michy Batshuayi rewarded Belgium's first-half dominance with well-worked goals and Kieffer Moore halved the deficit five minutes after the interval.

On Friday, the U.S. lost to Japan 2-0 at the Merkur Spiel-Arena in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Daichi Kamada and Kaoru Mitoma were on target for the Samurai Blue.

The U.S. will play Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Wales and the U.S. are in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with Iran and England.

Tehran derby date confirmed

TEHRAN – Tehran derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis football teams will be held on November 4.

Tehran derby will be the last match of the Iran Professional League (IPL) before the 2022 FIFA World Cup begins.

Soheil Mahdi, head of the Iran Football League Organization, said the league will restart after Team Melli returns from the World Cup.

Persepolis sit top of the table, while Esteghlal are third in the IPL.

Iran, Russia friendly called off: official

TEHRAN – Mehdi Mohammad Nabi, a member of Iran Football Federation's Board of Directors, said that a planned friendly match with Russia has been called off.

The head coach of the Russian national football team Valery Karpin had said that his team will play Iran in a friendly match in Tehran or Doha on November 16.

"We cannot play Russia on November 16 because we will travel to Doha on November 11. Team Melli will play a friendly match with one of the Persian Gulf countries in Doha," Nabi said.

Iran met Uruguay in a friendly in Austria on Friday and will play Senegal four days later.

Dragan Skocic leaves Iran

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic left Tehran for Croatia on Thursday.

The 54-year-old coach was replaced by Carlos Queiroz on Sept. 7.

Skocic took over from Marc Wilmots as coach in February 2020 and secured Team Melli a spot in Qatar's World Cup by topping their qualification group ahead of South Korea in late January and booked their place at the prestigious event as the first Asian team.

Skocic earned 15 wins out of 18 games in charge but lost two of his last three matches, including a 2-1 friendly defeat against Algeria in Qatar.

Iran have been drawn in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

Revenues from fuel exports to Lebanon received last year



TEHRAN- Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said on Wednesday that Iran has been exporting fuel to Lebanon last year, and the money from those exports has been received.

Meanwhile, on Monday Iran's Embassy in Beirut told AL-Manar that the Iranian fuel ships will navigate towards Lebanon in two weeks.

According to the sources of the Iranian embassy in Beirut, the fuel ships will set off from Iran towards the Lebanese ports in around two weeks, AL-Manar reported.

Country's need for mining, road-building machinery should be met through imports

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade emphasized the need to meet the country's requirement for mining and road-building machinery through imports and said: "If we do not import this category of machinery, part of our production in the mining sector and road construction projects will face problems."

Abd-ul-Vahab Sahl-Abadi said that some of the machines needed by the country's industry sector are manufactured inside the country, and in this regard, measures should be taken to prevent them from being imported.

However, road construction and mining machinery such as excavators, loaders, bulldozers, etc. are not manufactured in the country and must be imported, he added.

Meanwhile, in mid-August, the vice chairman of Parliament's Industries Committee had said that the mining machinery of the country is in need of renovation.

Regarding the import of machinery in the mining sector, he said: "Mining machinery is manufactured in the country, but unfortunately there are not enough large industries that manufacture mining machinery and their production is also limited, so they cannot meet all the needs in the field of mining machinery."

Also in mid-July, the deputy, industry, mining and trade minister for mines and mining industries said that there are more than 15,000 mining machines, which are over 20 years old, in the fleet of mining industries of the country, which need renovation and replacement.

Reza Mohtashami said that some of these machines can be renovated, but the rest should be replaced through imports.

He said the liberalization of the import of mining machinery is only limited to machinery that cannot be manufactured inside the country.

The import of mining machinery without a history of manufacturing inside the country has been liberated without restrictions, and in this way, a good prospect is expected in



the mining industry equipment sector in the future, the official said, adding that in terms of the other machines that can be manufactured inside the country, import will not be done.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government is pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

But despite these programs, this sector is facing several challenges.

According to a report released in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) by the Research Center of the parliament, the challenges of the mining sector are 44 percent related to laws and the lack of a long and clear mining strategy, 33 percent are related to mismanagement and problems of miners, 13 percent to environmental and natural resources problems, and 10 percent are related to international problems.

Lack of machinery is also a major challenge in the mining sector.

A board member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said: "At present, due to the shortage of these machines, purchase prices have skyrocketed and, in addition, their rents have become very expensive. At these prices, it is not profitable for small and medium-sized mines to rent machinery and become active. Finally, the miner has the mine and the raw material, but it is not economical due to the expensive operation of the machinery."

6 new rigs to be added to NIDC drilling fleet

TEHRAN- The managing director National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced the approval of the purchase of six new rigs by the board of directors of the company and said based on this, three offshore rigs and three onshore rigs will be added to the operating fleet of National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), which will allow NIDC to have a strong presence in the Persian Gulf again.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of visiting the National Drilling Company and meeting with the company's senior managers, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said: "The Ministry of Oil and the National Iranian Oil Company have a supportive view of the National Drilling Company and this company plays a vital and important role in the production value chain."

Referring to the agreement between the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) and NIDC worth 1 billion dollars, he stated:

"Considering the necessity of rebuilding and repairs, 200 million dollars have been allocated for the rebuilding of the drilling fleet of this company."

Pointing out that it is necessary to prepare and present the transformation document of the National Drilling Company, the NIOC managing director said: the view of the Minister of Oil and the Board of Directors of the National Oil Company is special support for this company, and in this direction, increasing productivity and work efficiency in national drilling should be given special attention.

Back in July, NIDC Managing director Hamidreza Golpayegani had said that his company has signed several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the country's knowledge-based companies to cooperate in various areas including research, technology, construction engineering, procurement, and equipment affairs.



"This year, in order to use the capacities of domestic manufacturers, producers, knowledge-based institutions, scientific and research centers, effective negotiations have been done and joint cooperation documents are signed," he said.

NIDC managed to dig and complete 75 oil and gas wells in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

According to the company data, 56

Iran to resume electricity export to Turkey soon

From page 1 ▶ "Based on the agreement with the Ministry of Energy of Turkey, with the installation and testing of these facilities, the sale of Iranian electricity to Turkey will soon begin," the minister said.

According to Mehrabian, following up on the agreements reached between the presidents of Iran and Turkey during the visit

of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Tehran was also among the main subjects negotiated with the Turkish ministers.

"Regarding the issues related to joint waters and the Aras River, it was decided to form a permanent committee to investigate the issues and discuss matters concerning the interests of both sides," the official said.



It was decided that the first meeting of the technical committee will be held in Tehran in March 2023, he added.

Earlier this week, Advisor to Iran's Energy Minister for International Affairs Mohammad-Ali Farahnakian said that Iran is the top electricity producer in the region.

Thanks to the exchange of

electrical energy with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members states, Iran's electricity generation power will increase, Farahnakian told IRNA.

Iran, India, and Russia are among the largest and most powerful electricity producers in SCO and Iran is among the few countries that have big fossil fuel capacity as well, the official said.

Iran, Azerbaijan begin construction of bridge over Aras

TEHRAN - Iran and Azerbaijan formally launched the construction of a highway bridge over the Aras River at the two countries' border in the Aghbend Region, the porta of Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported.

Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi and Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev held the official ceremony via video conference held in Tehran on Wednesday.

The bridge is going to be constructed under the framework of an agreement for establishing a road link between Nakhchivan and Azerbaijan through Iran's territory that was signed during the 15th Iran, Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee meeting.

The project will form Azerbaijan-Iran-Nakhchivan Corridor by linking East Zangezur Region in Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan through Iran's territory.



Iranian Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi (L) and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev inaugurate the construction project of a bridge over Aras River via video conference in Tehran on Wednesday.

The construction of this bridge will expand bilateral relations and freight transit between Iran and Azerbaijan and in the region.

The bridge is 220 meters long and its width is about 25 meters. The project is expected to be completed within 18 months.

One of the major policies that the current Iranian government is pursuing is expanding trade relations with neighboring countries.

In this regard over the past year, the Islamic Republic has taken major steps for developing transportation infrastructure at its borders.

Back in January, Iran and Azerbaijan also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in constructing a bridge over the Astarachay border river.

The construction of the Astarachay bridge was described as a positive step in completing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and is expected to open a new gate for the development of all-out relations between the two neighbors.

Speaking in the mentioned ceremony, Mustafayev said the construction of the bridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of the current year.

Comprehensive document on developing oil industry's catalyst sector unveiled

TEHRAN - An upgraded version of the oil industry's comprehensive catalyst document was unveiled in a ceremony on Thursday, on the sidelines of the 16th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST).

The ceremony was attended by senior officials including head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei, Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Majid Chegeni and Managing Director of Iran's Petrochemical Research and Technology Company (PRTC) Majid Daftari, Shana reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Daftari noted that the mentioned document has been updated by PRTC in collaboration with domestic knowledge-based companies and scientific centers over the past year.

Stating that technical knowledge is the driving force in the

petrochemical industry, the official said: "There are currently 99 types of catalysts, absorbers and initiators used in the country's petrochemical industry among which we have so far been able to localize and produce 88 catalysts."

"Due to the updating of the country's catalyst document, the knowledge for the production of the rest of the catalysts will also be localized by the end of the 13th government administration," he said.

Daftari pointed out that the petrochemical industry is 98 percent self-sufficient in the field of catalysts saying that the remaining two percent should be localized within the next three years.

Earlier this month, Daftari said that homegrown technical know-how has reduced investment costs in the petrochemical industry by 30 percent.



NIGC Head Majid Chegeni (L) and NPC Head Morteza Shahmirzaei unveil oil industry's comprehensive catalyst document.

According to Daftari, PRTC has played a significant role in indigenizing the knowledge for the production of over 85 percent of the catalysts used in the petrochemical industry, saying: "According to the promise we made to the oil minister last year, the research activities on strategic catalysts were carried out in 1400 [previous Iranian calendar year ended on March 20], and by the end of this year, in addition to several

strategic catalysts being finalized and ready to be supplied to the industry, several catalyst production units will also be put into official operation."

Iran's 16th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Wednesday.

As reported, 600 domestic companies as well as 10 foreign exhibitors are participating in the current year's exhibition.

Delegations from 19 different countries including Pakistan, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Syria, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Nakhchivan Republic, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Tunisia, Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan, Brazil, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Romania, Iraq, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Poland and Spain are also visiting the exhibition.

TEDPIX down 2.4% in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 33,859 points (2.4 percent) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported the index closed at 1,355,240 points at the end of the week.

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

Unprecedented fluctuations in the Iranian stock market over the past few months have led shareholders, experts, and scholars to call for the government to increase its support for the market.

Following the rising concerns over the market conditions, in early April, the Government Economic Coordination Headquarters, in its 216th meeting, approved some new directives for regulating the stock market.

Stock market analyst Mostafa Safari believes that global economic stagnation and inflation have negatively affected stock markets all around the world including the Iranian capital market.

According to Safari, the outlook, however, is positive for the next two years and the Iranian stock market is expected to get back on track



and continue its upward trend within the next two years.

"It seems that for the next two years, we will see an upward trend in the capital market; Because some statistics show that the market follows a two-year pattern; it has been facing two years of recession from August 2019 to August 2022, now it is time for the market to experience two years of prosperity," he explained.

The expert said the capital market needs political and economic stability for growth, which can be achieved by restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We should not expect the economic impact of the nuclear deal in the short term, and it may take more than a year for the positive effects to be manifested in the market," he stressed.

Queen's funeral helped tip UK into recession

From page 1 ▶ The exact costs of the highly expensive policing operation and other related security aspects might never be known. Likewise, the exact cost of shutting down businesses during a working day and the financial disruptions that caused.

It is clear that many workers on low paid jobs and the many self-employed who rely on a working day to earn a wage lost out, that day, during what is a financial crisis. As did some of the hungry who saw their foodbank closed for the funeral.

On a day when the privileged rich were under media attention the poor who can't afford to heat their homes or the hungry for that matter received no media attention.

What is also clear is that if the June public holiday to mark the queen's 70-years in power led to a contraction in the British economy then the public holiday of the queen's funeral helped steer the economy into recession.

The bank also gave a bleak assessment on the cost of living crisis saying "energy bills will still go up".

European countries are facing an energy shortage crisis after the war in Ukraine cut off gas supplies ahead of the winter season. The cost of gas has skyrocketed with expensive consumer bills spearheading inflation levels.

Critics accuse Western governments of triggering the war by ignoring Russia's security guarantees and prolonging the fighting with a steady flow of weapons instead of a peace initiative.

British households have already started being sent notices of how much their energy bills will



rise when the price cap will be raised once again at the start of October. As expected, consumers vented their anger on social media platforms.

A new report shows almost 11 million people across the UK have struggled to pay at least one house bill. That is one in five UK adults. The survey for the charity group Money Advice Trust shows the extent of the impact rising bills is having on households.

Despite a government cap which Downing Street claims will help the poor, the research shows energy prices are already unaffordable for millions of poor people or forcing them to cut back spending in other areas.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England's interest hike has seen the pound come under pressure. The pound fell to a record low of \$1.11 for the first time in nearly forty years and experts believe it is unlikely to rally any time soon.

At its highest point earlier this year £1 used to buy \$1.37. The falling price is making it much more expensive to import goods and will likely add to inflation.

The country's opposition

chancellor Rachel Reeves says the bank's interest rate hike "shows how this Tory government has lost control of the economy".

"Their failure to foot any of their energy package with a windfall tax on the enormous profits of oil and gas producers is creating dangerous uncertainty," she said.

The opposition Liberal Democrats' treasury spokeswoman Sarah Olney also hit out, saying the interest rate rise would be a "hammer blow to struggling homeowners who are being punished by the government's failure to control inflation".

"This monster rate rise could have been avoided if Conservative ministers bothered to take action sooner on energy bills and the rising cost of living," she added.

It has also emerged that the cost of a child's lunch at school has risen by 70% over the past 18 months, reflecting the general rise in groceries. Food items such as bread, cheese, tomatoes and biscuits have all soared in price as food inflation rises. Tomatoes have seen a huge jump in price of 146%, while cheese is up 132%.

This comes as the country is bracing for crippling industrial action. It has been announced that tens of thousands of British railway workers nationwide will go on strike on October 8.

More than 40,000 rail workers will walk out for what will be the third day of rail strikes slated for next month. The Rail, Maritime and Transport union said that the strike is over pay and conditions.

Rail strikes are already planned to take place on October 1-5 for Aslef union members. This will mean that around 10% of all UK services are likely to run on these dates.

Britain has faced strikes by workers across a number of sectors as wages fail to keep pace with soaring inflation and a deepening cost-of-living crisis.

The UK postal firm, the Royal Mail, has offered to take a dispute over pay and working conditions to arbitration as further strikes involving 115,000 workers loom.

With another recession after the last one during the height of the covid pandemic, there are strong fears of increased unemployment figures and those who do keep their jobs fearing cuts to pay and benefits.

Businesses are already making fewer sales as consumers cut back on spending because of the rising cost of living crisis and they are not expected to bode well during this period of economic uncertainty.

The pressure is growing on the government which is widely accused of serving the rich. It appears that very little of what the chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng announced in the budget will soften the financial blow hitting millions of households.

WORLD HEADLINES

At least 71 die on Lebanon migrant boat



At least 71 people died when the migrant boat they were aboard sank off the Syrian coast after sailing from Lebanon earlier this week, the Lebanese transport minister said, as search operations continued on Friday.

It marks the deadliest such voyage yet from Lebanon, where mounting economic desperation has led many to board often rickety and overcrowded boats in the hope of reaching Europe.

Syrian authorities began finding bodies off the coast of Tartus on Thursday afternoon. The Syrian transport ministry has cited survivors saying the boat left from Lebanon's northern Minyeh region on Tuesday with between 120 and 150 people onboard, bound for Europe.

British pound slumps to -37year low against dollar

The British pound slipped to 1.1187 against the US dollar on Friday, its lowest level in 37 years.

The drop came a day after both the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England hiked interest rates by 75 and 50 basis points, respectively.

It marks the first time the GBP/USD rate has fallen below 1.12 since January 1985.

Erdogan to hold meeting on Russian Mir payments, possible sanctions: sources

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was to convene a top tier economy-focused meeting on Friday at which Russian payment system Mir and possible Western sanctions would be discussed, two sources with information on the matter told Reuters.

The meeting with government officials and others will also address agreements with Russia, recent heavy volatility on the Istanbul stock exchange and the general economic situation, the sources said, requesting anonymity.

Two private Turkish banks, Denizbank and Isbank, suspended use of Mir this week after Washington expanded its sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, including targeting the head of the entity that runs the payments system.

Putin: US, UK, EU openly encourage Kyiv to move hostilities to our territory

The United States, Britain, and European Union openly encouraged Kyiv to move hostilities to "our territory," Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"The US, the UK, and Europe openly encouraged Kyiv to move hostilities to our territory, and Russia must be defeated on the battlefield by any means, subsequently deprived of political, economic, cultural, and any other sovereignty, and ransacked," President Putin said.

"Russia's territorial integrity, independence, and freedom will be defended by all available systems. It is our historical tradition and destiny to stop those keen on global domination and threatening to split up and enslave us. We will do it this time as well," the Russian president underscored.

Russian diplomat slams Biden's UN address

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has hit out at US President Joe Biden's address at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly where he misquoted Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"As for the address by the US president, I think that it was absolutely unseemly how it began and how it went mainstream, since it was framed around our country. The thing is that he began by allegedly quoting Russia's president. He attributed remarks to the Russian president that our country was threatening the world with nuclear weapons," she told the Soloviev Live TV channel on Thursday.

Showdown with US, NATO not in Russia's interests: senior diplomat

A showdown with the United States and NATO is not in Russia's interests as it may trigger armed clashes, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Friday.

"A face-off with the United States and NATO, which is fraught with an open armed conflict, is not in our interests," he said in a video address to the participants in the international conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"We hope that the [US President Joe] Biden administration understands the risks of uncontrolled escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, given the repeated statements by their officials that they don't plan to send American servicemen to Ukraine," he noted.

Four regions begin referendums on secession from Ukraine

Four areas of Ukraine controlled by Russia and pro-Moscow forces started their referendums on Friday on seceding from the eastern European country and joining the Russian federation, Press TV reported.

Voting is being held in the breakaway republics of Luhansk and Donetsk - already controlled by pro-Russia separatists and recognized by Moscow - as well as in the southern provinces of Kherson and Zaporizhia and will continue until September 27.

"All of us have been waiting for a referendum on joining Russia for 8 long years," said Leonid Pasechnik, the Russian-backed leader of Luhansk. "We have already become part of Russia. There remains only a small matter - to win (the war)."

"We are returning home," said the Russian-backed leader of Donetsk, Denis Pushilin. "Donbas is Russia."

The voting process in the four regions would be nontraditional, Russia's official TASS news agency reported. "Given the short deadlines and the lack of technical equipment, it was decided not to hold electronic voting and use the traditional paper ballots," it said.

According to the report, authorities will go door-to-door for the first four days to collect votes, and polling stations will open only on the final day for residents to cast their ballots.

The voting, however, has been denounced as illegitimate by Kiev and its Western allies, who insist that the referendums pave the way for Moscow to formally control nearly 15 percent of the Ukrainian territory.

Cambridge University gained 'significant benefits' from slave trade, study reveals

The UK's University of Cambridge gained "significant benefits" from the transatlantic slave trade, according to new research on the prestigious varsity's historical links to slavery.

The research, commissioned in 2019 by Cambridge's vice-chancellor Stephen Toope, revealed significant investments made by Cambridge colleges in firms involved in slave trade but found no evidence the university owned enslaved people or slave plantations.

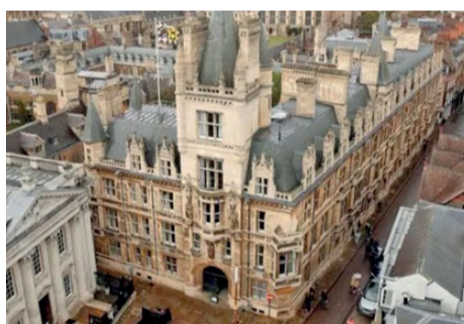
The research showed the investments in the East India Company and the South Sea Company, as well as the wealth derived from slavery by the university graduates, fellows, and benefactors.

"The research found no evidence that the university directly owned slave plantations or slaves," the university said in its announcement of the publication on Thursday.

"However, it identified significant benefits to the university and its colleges arising from investments in companies that were participants in the trade, from individual benefactors, and fees derived from the families of plantation owners."

The report detailed investments made by colleges such as Gonville & Caius, Trinity, and King's, with several investing in companies directly involved in the slave trade.

In other cases, colleges received donations



from big investors in colonial companies such as the Royal African Company, the South Sea Company, and the East India Company.

"Such financial involvement both helped to facilitate the slave trade and brought very significant financial benefits to Cambridge," the researchers noted.

The institution's famous Fitzwilliam Museum is slated to hold an exhibition on slavery and power next year, the same museum that was "founded on money inherited from a governor of the slave-trading South Sea Company", the report noted.

"Such financial involvement both helped to facilitate the slave trade and brought very significant financial benefits to Cambridge," the Legacies of Enslavement report said.

The findings came as leading institutions such as the Bank of England or the Church of England have been re-evaluating the key role

they had in slavery and how they benefited from it.

The university vice-chancellor said it was "inevitable" a university "as long-established as Cambridge" would have links to slavery, and said slavery was until the 19th century "a widely accepted system of exploitation".

Cambridge now plans to create and fund a "legacies of enslavement" research center to continue investigations, as well as increase financial support for black students, with dedicated scholarships for postgraduate students from Africa and the Caribbean, according to a report in the Guardian.

It also plans to commission works of art for its black graduates, and honor staff and students who campaigned for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade.

"It is not in our gift to right historic wrongs but we can begin by acknowledging them," Toope said.

"Having unearthed our university's links to an appalling history of abuse, the report encourages us to work even harder to address current inequalities - particularly those related to the experiences of black communities."

The transatlantic slave trade that began on royal approval in 1663 was responsible for transporting millions of enslaved Africans to colonies in the Americas.

(Source: Press TV)

Russia can defend new regions with nuclear weapons: Medvedev

Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president, has said that any weapons in Moscow's arsenal, including strategic nuclear weapons, could be used to defend territories incorporated into Russia from Ukraine, Al Jazeera reported.

"The Donbas [Donetsk and Luhansk] republics and other territories will be accepted into Russia," Medvedev, the deputy

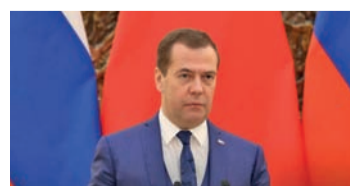
chairman of Russia's Security Council, said in a Telegram post, referring to breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine's industrial heartland.

His comments came after President Vladimir Putin warned on Wednesday that Moscow would use "all available means" to protect Russia's "territorial integrity" as he moved to mobilize 300,000 reserve forces to fight in

Ukraine. The thinly veiled nuclear threat drew immediate condemnation from an array of Western leaders.

Medvedev, who regularly issues aggressive statements on the West and Ukraine, added that the protection of all the territories would be significantly strengthened by the Russian armed forces.

"Russia has announced that



not only mobilization capabilities, but also any Russian weapons, including strategic nuclear weapons and weapons based on new principles, could be used for such protection," he said.

Tourism projects worth \$10b underway across Iran



A budget of 310 trillion rials (\$1.1 billion) has been channeled into the projects, he noted.

These projects, which include hotels, apartment hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, and tourist complexes, are expected to generate some 2200 job opportunities, he mentioned.

Experts suppose the country is to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

TEHRAN—Tourism-related projects worth three quadrillion rials (\$10 billion) are currently underway across Iran, an official with the tourism ministry has said.

Some of the projects, which are under construction in different provinces, have achieved 70 percent physical progress so far, ILNA quoted Ahmad Tajari as saying on Wednesday.

A total of 183 projects are also scheduled to be inaugurated nationwide during the national tourism week (September 27- October 3), the official added.

Tehran to host agritourism workshop

TEHRAN—A workshop on agritourism is planned to be held in Pakdasht, near the Iranian capital, on the occasion of the national tourism week (September 27-October 3), Pakdasht's tourism chief has said.

As part of the workshop, Pakdasht will be promoted as a regional agritourism center, and ways of opening more tourism farms will be discussed, Asadollah Tajik explained on Thursday.

Boosting agritourism could lead to economic prosperity for the rural areas, the official added.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with locals in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that attract visitors to the



countryside.

Rural tourism is said to differ from agritourism in some ways. For instance, rural tourism enterprises do not necessarily occur on a farm or ranch, or at an agricultural plant. They do not generate supplemental income for the agricultural enterprise.

To cite an example, we could refer to saffron farms in northeast Iran that are going to fame as a new destination for agritourism. Iranian Saffron is known as the "red gold", saffron is a magical ingredient in Persian culture, from aromatic foods and colorful desserts to physical and spiritual medicine.

Experts believe that agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying "For this reason, agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services."

Elymais, Seleucid and Parthian relics recovered by police



TEHRAN—Iranian authorities have recently recovered several ancient objects estimated to date from the Elymais, Seleucid, and Parthian eras.

The relics, which include an Elymais-era bronze coin and pieces of a marble vessel were seized from smugglers in Dezful of Khuzestan province, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

In addition, an ancient Roman gold coin attributed to Julius Caesar was recovered from the suspects by police forces in charge of protecting cultural heritage, the report said.

Elymais or Elamais was an autonomous state from the second century BC to the early 3rd century CE, frequently a vassal under

Parthian control. The dynasty is believed to be established by Kamnaskires, known from coins dated 81 BC, and it survived until its extinction by the Sassanid king Ardashir I (180-242 CE).

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

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

In Gilan, splendid backdrops, old sites and new food beckon

From page 1 ▶ This square is encircled by a few verifiable landmarks, for example, a clock tower, an old post building, and a verifiable inn.

The square was built between 1919 and 1924 and is still the main square of Rasht. The architecture of this square and the beautiful surrounding buildings is inspired by Saint Petersburg. Shahr-dari square is a popular choice for spending the evening or strolling around and enjoying the delightful weather.

Kuchak Khan Mausoleum

Mirza Kuchak Khan was an Iranian activist in the Persian Constitutional Revolution and the leader of the Jungle Movement. He has been a beloved character and a hero to Gilanis. Today his home serves as a museum displaying his possessions. Visiting his house helps visitors learn about an important era in the history of Iran. The mausoleum built in his memory is also visited often by locals and travelers.

Qal'eh Rukhan

Situated close to Fuman city, Qal'eh Rukhan (Rudkhan Palace) is the largest brick-made castle in Iran. This great stronghold is situated on top of the mountain and encompassed by the backwoods, permitting guests to partake in the lovely nature while visiting this fabulous palace.

The monument is praised for its grandeur, clever architecture, and defensive structure. This stunning castle dates back to the Seljuk era and has never been taken by enemies. The best time to visit Rudkhan castle is during the summer as the stairs may become slippery in winter.

Approximately thousand steps going up to Rudkhan fortress might make you question visiting it, yet the exquisite visas and the design of the palace put forth it worth the attempt. Guests may likewise purchase neighborhood items on their way up to the palace.

Gilan Rural Heritage Museum

Gilan Rural Heritage Museum is arranged in a way to represent



traditional, cultural, architectural, and anthropological areas of the northern province.

Many traditional Gilani cottages have been reassembled on the grounds of this fascinating open-air museum in an area of 45 hectares within the Saravan Forest Park, 18km south of Rasht (2km off the Qazvin highway).

In this complex, separate areas are provided for restaurants, teahouses, markets, tea gardens, paddy fields, training workshops, and handicraft production. Other sections of this site also include indigenous theaters and playgrounds, agricultural and livestock research centers, an architecture and anthropology research institute, a children's park, a garden for growing medicinal plants and native trees, an amusement camp, and two guest complexes with a capacity of 150 units of three to five people inspired by rural architecture.

Masuleh Village

Talking about the delightful villages in Iran, Masuleh is quite possibly the earliest one that ring a bell. This staggering town draws in numerous guests yearly and wins their love with its novel design and astonishing nature.

Situated in the Talesh mountain range and 65 km south of Rasht, Masuleh is famous for its unique structure with the yard of each house being the roof of the one below it.

Spectacular sceneries, created by the waterfalls and the verdure

mountains, add to the charm of this village. There is an opportunity to spend some time experiencing the traditional life of the inhabitants by staying in one of the traditional hotels available.

Grand Bazaar

Unlike most traditional bazaars in Iran, Rasht Grand Bazaar of Rasht is an open-air marketplace. However, it is some to some caravanserais dating back to the Qajar and early Pahlavi eras.

The bazaar has long been popular among locals and visitors and is a suitable place for buying souvenirs, indigenous food, etc.

Approximately thousand steps going up to Rudkhan Castle might make you question visiting it, yet the exquisite visas and the design of the fortress put forth it worth the attempt.

Caspian Sea

The Caspian Sea is the largest natural lake in the world. It has made the northern cities of Iran popular holiday destinations, especially among citizens of Tehran. The beaches now offer a variety of recreational options in

addition to swimming, attracting many visitors daily.

The Caspian Sea is a must-see when traveling to Rasht and a great place to enjoy sunny days.

Eynak Lagoon

Eynak Lagoon is the largest one located inside a city in Iran and the second largest lagoon in Gilan province. This amazing lagoon gets its name (glasses) due to its unique shape. Eynak lagoon is surrounded by trees and herbs making it more beautiful. This lagoon is also one of the popular fishing spots around Rasht.

Saqalaksar Lake

Saqalaksar Lake is one of the most beautiful natural lakes in Gilan, which is turned into a famous vacation spot over the most recent couple of years.

This magnificent pond and the surrounding area attract many visitors looking to spend a peaceful day in nature. The lake is most beautiful during fall when the colorful trees reflect in the water.

Anzali Lagoon

Named after Anzali port town, the spectacular lagoon is famous for its beautiful Indian lotuses seen in spring.

It is also a natural habitat for many fish species and migrating birds making it more special. Activities such as kayaking, boat riding and fishing, and even birdwatching, are routine in this magnificent place.

Souvenirs

Gilan is renowned for its range of food varieties produced using fresh olives, rice, fish, and so on, some of which are famous keepsakes.

Mirza Qasemi, Torsh-e Tareh, Anar-Bij, Sir-Qelyeh, Baqali-Qatoq, kal Kabab, Aloo Mosamma, and sour Kebab are among the famed dishes of the province to name a few.

It merits realizing that Rasht is an UNESCO-assigned inventive city of gastronomy. The city and its encompassing towns offer around 170 recipes.

Over two million Arbaeen pilgrims pass Mehran border

TEHRAN – Mehran crossing on the Iran-Iraq border has seen over two million pilgrims during the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

A total of 2,762,000 Iranian and foreign Arbaeen pilgrims have crossed the Iran-Iraq border at Mehran, western Ilam province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Of the number, some 1,496,632 pilgrims traveled to Iraq through the Mehran border, while 1,265,879 entered Iran, Farzad Sharifi explained on Thursday.

Mehran is a major border between Iran and Iraq and is among the most significant crossings, especially due to its proximity to holy cities in Iraq. Between 500,000 and 600,000



people cross the border at this terminal every

year.

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

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

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

New eco-lodge units to come on stream in Semnan

TEHRAN—New eco-lodge units will be added to the traditional hospitality sector of the north-central Semnan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

There are plans to develop 250 eco-lodges throughout the province within three years, Amir Karamzadeh explained on Thursday.

It is essential for the growth and prosperity of tourism in the province to increase the number of eco-lodge units, the official added.

Currently, the province has more than 120 eco-lodges, and the number is growing, he noted.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with

Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garm-sar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Iran's tourism body said in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges will be constructed nationwide until 2021. Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average, so the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

Having a very diverse natural



setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, ma-

drasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

Helmand's water right being pursued as a major demand

TEHRAN – Realization of the water right of Helmand River for Hamoun International Wetland from Afghanistan is being pursued as a major demand using all bilateral and international capacities, head of the Department of Environment (DOE) Ali Salajeqeh, has said.

Iran insistently pursues its demand for environmental water rights from neighboring countries through bilateral meetings, he stated, IRNA reported.

What the neighboring country claims is that the existing conditions are due to climate change, but our data shows that during the announcement of the Afghan government, three to four billion cubic meters of water entered the Hirmand River and then diverted to Gowd-i zerrah, an inland drainage basin covering large parts of southern Afghanistan and Iran.

Considering that Iran has always been a friend and helper of Afghanistan, we expect the neighboring country to fulfill its international obligations, he said.

Hamoun International Wetland also is not in a good condition, unfortunately considering that the neighboring country has not granted the water rights of the Wetland, he lamented, expressing hope to follow up on the issue soon.

In the Sistan region, an international plan is being implemented that pursues the issue of empowering the local wetland communities, which we hope will



improve livelihoods in a favorable manner, he noted.

The issue of moisturizing the soil is one of the main ways to solve sand and dust storms in Sistan, which can be done by providing the water rights of wetlands, he also said.

"We should also take advantage of watershed and aquifer projects in the catchment area overlooking the Sistan region to solve the dust phenomenon," he stated.

Iran-Afghanistan water dispute

The Hamouns are transboundary wetlands on the Iran-Afghanistan border made up of three lakes: Hamoun-e Helmand, which is entirely in Iran, Hamoun-e Sabari on the border, and Hamoun-e Puzak, almost entirely inside Afghanistan. The three lakes are linked and fed by water from the Helmand River which starts in the Hindu Kush

Mountains in Afghanistan.

According to the Atlantic Council (an American think tank in the field of international affairs) disputes over water between Iran and Afghanistan date to the 19th century when Afghanistan was a British protectorate. Frederick Goldsmith, a British officer, drew the Iran-Afghanistan border along the main branch of the Helmand River.

In 1950, Iran and Afghanistan created the Helmand River Delta Commission with the task of measuring and dividing river flow between the two countries. In 1951, the Helmand River Delta Commission presented its report, recommending that Iran's share of the Helmand waters amount to twenty-two cubic meters per second. Iran, however, rejected the report, asking for a larger share.

In 1973, the then Iranian prime minister, Amir Abbas Hoveida, and

his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Musa Shafiq signed an accord that accepted the flow of water into Iran at twenty-two cubic meters per second with an option for Iran to purchase an additional four cubic meters per second in normal water years.

In return, Iran agreed to allow the ports of Bandar Abbas and Chabahar to be available to Afghanistan without preconditions. However, this agreement was neither ratified nor fully implemented due to the political developments in both countries including a 1973 coup in Afghanistan, the 1979 Iranian revolution, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan that same year, and finally the rise of the Taliban in 1995.

In the last two decades, once fertile wetlands have drastically dried up. The Taliban government closed the sluices to the Kajaki Dam on Helmand until 2002, which aggravated the impact of the worst drought the region has experienced in many decades, brought about partially by climate change and warming temperatures.

The Hamoun wetlands, which once supported broad plant and animal diversity and were the main source of the region's economic viability, have nearly dried up due to climate change, dam construction, and other poor water management practices. This has led to large population migrations and a high unemployment rate.

Sign languages: linguistic identity and cultural diversity of the deaf

From page 1 ▶ Sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when traveling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages. It makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and obligates state parties to facilitate the learning of sign language and promote the linguistic identity of the deaf community.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed September 23 as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.

This day marks the birth of an advocacy organization, which has as one of its main goals, the preservation of sign languages and deaf culture as prerequisites to the realization of the human rights of deaf people.

The resolution establishing the day acknowledges that early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the



internationally agreed development goals.

It recognizes the importance of preserving sign languages as part of linguistic and cultural diversity. It also emphasizes the principle of "nothing about us without us" in terms of working with deaf communities.

Hearing loss prevalence in Iran

According to the Welfare Organization, some 230,000 people with severe hearing loss are supported by this organization.

Mohammad Farhadi head of the national committee for hearing health said in March 2019 that about 520,000 hearing impaired citizens are living in Iran and 1,500 infants suffering from profound hearing loss are born in the country annually.

In premature infants, the range of hearing impairment is 20 to 40 percent while the average hearing loss in Iranian full-term infants is 2.7 per 1,000 births, he said.

He said that eleven governmental cochlear implant centers are currently active in Iran.

Over 10,000 Iranians benefit from cochlear implants during the past 26 years, he announced.

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted neuroprosthetic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who suffers severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss.

Hearing loss may be caused by genetic causes, complications at birth, certain infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive noise, and aging. However, 60 percent of childhood hearing loss is due to preventable causes.

Unaddressed hearing loss incurs an annual global cost of \$750 billion. Interventions to prevent, identify, and address hearing loss are cost-effective and can bring great benefits to individuals.

People with hearing loss can benefit from early identification; the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive devices; captioning and sign language; and other forms of educational and social support.

There are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide, using more than 300 different sign languages.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

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

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

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

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

The capital city of Tehran alone has the biggest share of motorcyclists constituting 21 percent of the estimated 56 percent, he noted, IRNA reported on Sunday.

۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند.

سرهنگ علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند.

وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

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

محمدی با بیان اینکه بیش از ۲۱ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور در تهران بزرگ تردد می کنند، اظهار داشت: تهران بیشترین سهم موتورسیکلت را در سطح کشور داراست.

Dementia seen to grow highly in 30 years

TEHRAN – In Iran, people born in the 1980s constitute the largest population group, who will enter old age in the next 20 or 30 years, so it is predicted that the prevalence of dementia will significantly increase in the future.

In general, neurodegenerative diseases in which brain tissue deteriorates are called dementia. There are different types of dementia, one of the most common types of which is Alzheimer's disease.

Other types of dementia include vascular dementia or a combination of vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Less common types of dementia are also known as Lewy body dementia or frontotemporal dementia.

In diseases where the brain tissue is destroyed, in fact, the brain cells in certain parts of the brain are gradually destroyed and the brain has shrunk or atrophied, Maryam Abbasnejad, an expert in the mental health office of the Ministry of Health, said.

Dementia symptoms are different depending on which part of the brain is more degraded. Symptoms may include memory problems, difficulty processing thoughts, speech problems, movement problems, loss of executive functions of the brain, or reduced learning ability, she explained.

Different pathways may lead to dementia. For example, the main cause of Alzheimer's is unknown, but it has been seen that some genetic factors influence its occurrence, but it is not necessarily a hereditary disease, but some genes related to Alzheimer's are known, she said.

In histological studies, they have seen that there are certain substances in the brains of Alzheimer's patients, and these substances have played a role in the degeneration of brain tissue, she added.

Studies show that about 8 percent of the elderly, i.e. people over 65 years old, suffer from dementia, which is almost the same number estimated in our country.

By calculating the total elderly population of Iran, it is clear that there are about 800,000 people with dementia, but many of these people are

not known, and maybe only one-fifth of the mentioned number is diagnosed.

In general, dementia is a disease that is difficult and late to diagnose, and even many doctors and specialists may not pay attention to this disease and do not diagnose it on time.

The World Health Organization predicts that dementia will become an important health problem in most countries in the next 50 years.

In Iran, the age group born in the 1360s constitutes the largest demographic group, who will enter old age in the next 20 or 30 years, and it is predicted that the prevalence of dementia will increase in the country in the future.

National screening program

A national screening program will be implemented for 120,000 senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 75 suffering from Alzheimer's, Afrouz Safarifar, an official with the Welfare Organization, said on Wednesday.

The dementia screening program will be piloted in two provinces of Yazd and Qazvin and then in the whole country, she announced.

Every 3 seconds

Every 3 seconds someone in the world is affected by Alzheimer's. Worldwide there are some 55 million people who suffer from dementia, which includes Alzheimer's.

As the proportion of older people in the population is increasing in nearly every country, this number is expected to rise to 78 million in 2030 and 139 million in 2050.

The estimated proportion of the general population aged 60 and over with dementia at a given time is between 5-8 percent.

Dementia has significant social and economic implications in terms of direct medical and social care costs, and the costs of informal care. In 2019, the estimated total global societal cost of dementia was US\$ 1.3 trillion, and these costs are expected to surpass US\$ 2.8 trillion by 2030 as both the number of people living with dementia and care costs increase.

Iranian firms to attend Pakistan's biggest medical event

TEHRAN – Iranian manufacturers will participate in the 19th Health Asia International Exhibition and Conferences of Pakistan, which will be held in Karachi on October 13-15.

This 3-day annual event which started in 2004, is the biggest annual gathering of the related industry stake holders and the most important medical event in Pakistan.

Iran's pavilion will be established in the fields of knowledge, health, and medicine with the support of the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology, and the Innovation and Prosperity Fund.

An Iranian delegation led by the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture Gholam-Hossein Shafe'i, traveled to the cities of Karachi and Lahore, IRNA reported on Thursday.

Over the past year, this will be the third major exhibition event in Karachi as the economic heart of Pakistan, which will be held with the strong presence of Iranian companies.

Global market share

Iran holds a share of one percent (about \$5 bil-

lion) in the global market for medical equipment of approximately \$500 billion, but the country has the potential to increase the share, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Health.

In 2018, the National Medical Device Directorate reported that the Iranian medical equipment market was worth \$2.5 billion, 30 percent of which belonged to over 1,000 domestic firms.

On a global scale, 56 percent of 500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian versions. In pharmaceuticals, around 70 percent of Iran's \$4.5 billion markets are domestic products and, in 2018, 97 percent of pharmaceuticals consumed in the country were manufactured locally.

In 2018, 67 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were made locally.

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Iranian companies producing medical equipment export their products to 54 countries across the world.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 23

New cases	421
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,546,276
Total deaths	144,367
New hospitalized patients	96
Patients in critical condition	214
Total recovered patients	7,323,206
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,042,028
Doses of vaccine injected	154,729,107



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:56 Evening: 19:17 Dawn: 4:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:54 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



* Mahnaz Qanei is hanging her latest calligraphic paintings in an exhibition at Golhayeh Davudi Gallery.
 The exhibition will run until September 27 at the gallery located at 263 near Nejatollahi St., Taleqani Ave.



* Kahfi Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.
 Leila Shahanjarini is the curator of the exhibit entitled "The Secret of the Heart and the Role of the Heart". The exhibit will run until September 28 at the gallery that can be found at 1 Azizi Alley, Haddadnejad St., Qeitarieh Blvd.



* Sculptures by Hassan Hazermoshar are currently on view in an exhibition at Outsider Inn Gallery.
 The exhibit will run until October 6 at the gallery located at 11 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e Asr Square.



* Sets of installation art and sculptures by Gizella Varga Sinaei are on view in an exhibition at Inja Gallery.
 The exhibit entitled "Under the Helmet" will run until September 30 at the gallery located at 4 Pedram Alley, Neauphle-le-Chateau St.



* CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is showcasing works by a group of artists in various media, including Sadeq Tabrizi, Ahmad Vakili, Nami Petgar, Reza Bangiz and Reza Hedayat.
 Named "The Note", the exhibit is running until September 26 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

Painting

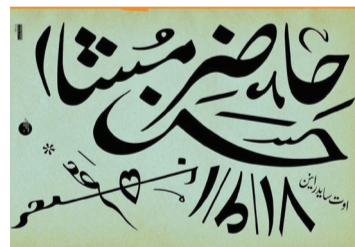
* An exhibition of paintings by Homeira Azimi is currently underway at Golestan Gallery.
 The exhibition named "Lonely Flowers" will be running until October 4 at the gallery that can be found at 34 Kamasaj St. in the Darus neighborhood.



* An exhibition displaying paintings by Hamideh Rezaei is currently underway at Entezami Gallery.
 The exhibit will run until September 29 at the gallery located at 608 Shariati Ave. near Motahhari St.



* Paintings by Nogol Mazlumi are on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.
 Entitled "Harsh Reality or What We Do Not Speak of", the exhibit will run until October 7 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* A collection of prints by Qadrotollah Aqeli is currently being shown in an exhibition at Saless Gallery.
 The exhibit will be running until October 5 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



Multimedia

* Artists in different media, including Fatemeh Torabi, Arezu Taqizadeh, Samira Tajik, Zahra Shahpuri and Bahereh Pakdaman, are displaying their latest artworks in an exhibition at Ehsan Gallery.
 The exhibit will run until September 27 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



Iran's Oscar submission "World War III" to compete in Tokyo festival

From Page 1 ▶ 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.

Earlier last week, Iran picked "World War III" directed by Hooman Seyyedi to represent the country in the international competition of the 96th Academy Awards.

"Butterflies Live Only One Day" by Iranian director Mohammadreza Vatandoost will also be screened in the Asian cinema competition of the Tokyo International Film Festival.

The film follows an old woman who has taken a vow of silence and talks to no one. She only has one big goal: to receive the government's permission to enter the island as someone is waiting for her there. But after



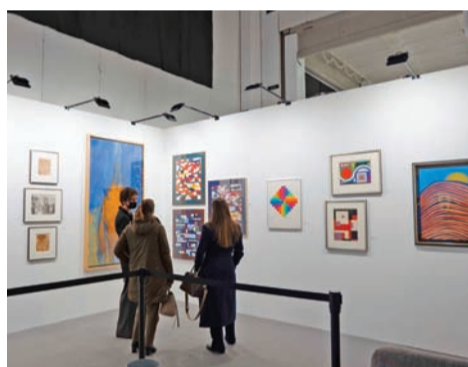
"World War III" by Hooman Seyyedi.

thirteen years, an entry permit has not been granted to her. The Japanese love story

"Fragments of the Last Will" by Zeze Takahisa will open the Tokyo festival and it will wrap

up with "Living", a co-production between the UK and Japan by Oliver Hermanus.

Switzerland WopArt showcases works by Iranian artists



A file photo shows people visiting the WopArt - Works on Paper Fair in Lugano, Switzerland.

TEHRAN – Three Iranian galleries are participating in the seventh edition of the WopArt - Works on Paper Fair, an international art fair currently underway in Lugano, Switzerland.

The Iris Contemporary Space, Mojdeh Gallery and Saye Gallery are showcasing works by several Iranian artists at the international art fair dedicated to works on paper.

The Iris Contemporary Space has chosen works

by Negar Zonubi, Marjan Qorbani and Hedyeh Khanali for the art fair, which opened on Friday and will run for three days.

Located in Tehran, the Iris Contemporary Space was established in July 2021 to focus on contemporary art. The center is a platform featuring events that are usually site-specific, mostly involving experimental and non-traditional art exhibition formats.

It aims to extend the gallery's exhibitions by outsourcing, and believes in cooperation and the ability to engage alternative spaces, offering a different way to display art.

Lugano is a city in southern Switzerland's Italian-speaking Ticino region.

Mojdeh Gallery is displaying works by Ahad Qadiri. The art center located in Tehran was founded in 1999 by Mojdeh Tabatabai.

The gallery aims to hold exhibitions for master and young artists in order to provide opportunities for them to enter the global art market.

It also intends to provide opportunities for

young emerging artists and veteran artists to conduct research in the field of contemporary and modern Iranian art.

The gallery seeks the expansion of cultural, artistic and economic exchanges between the artistic community of Iran and other countries.

WopArt is an annual art fair deriving its name from the acronym of "Works on Paper". It was founded in 2016 under the patronage of the officials of Lugano, a city in southern Switzerland's Italian-speaking Ticino region.

Wopart was founded at the behest of art lovers seeking to champion a niche segment of the art market, to bring together professionals, connoisseurs, collectors and aficionados of artworks on paper.

Since its founding, WopArt has attracted some of the world's most preeminent art galleries, and ranks as one of the most acclaimed art fairs on the international calendar.

It is considered today a premier place for top-quality works on paper that are fresh to the market, with prestigious provenances and impeccable attributions.

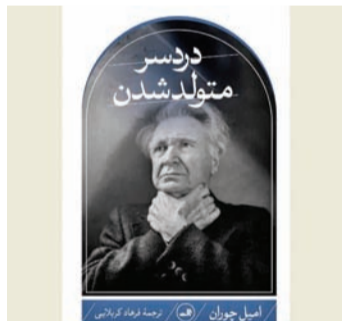
"The Trouble with Being Born" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – Romanian philosopher Emil M. Cioran's book "The Trouble with Being Born" has been published in Persian.

Farhad Karbalai is the translator of the book published by Saless in Tehran.

In this volume, which reaffirms the uncompromising brilliance of his mind, Cioran strips the human condition down to its most basic components, birth and death, suggesting that disaster lies not in the prospect of death but in the fact of birth, "that laughable accident."

In the lucid, aphoristic style that



Front cover of the Persian edition of Emil M. Cioran's book "The Trouble with Being Born".

characterizes his work, Cioran writes of time and death, God and religion, suicide and suffering, and

the temptation to silence.

In all his writing, Cioran cuts to the heart of the human experience.

Raised under the rule of a father who was a Romanian Orthodox priest and a mother who was prone to depression, Cioran wrote his first five books in Romanian.

Some of these are collections of brief essays; others are collections of aphorisms.

Suffering from insomnia since his adolescent years in Sibiu, the young Cioran studied philosophy in the "little Paris" of Bucharest.

In his highly controversial book, "The Transfiguration of Romania"

published in 1937, Cioran, who was at that time close to the Romanian fascists, violently criticized his country and his compatriots on the basis of contrast between such "little nations" as Romania, which were contemptible from the perspective of universal history and great nations, such as France or Germany, which took their destiny into their own hands.

After spending two years in Germany, Cioran arrived in Paris in 1936. He continued to write in Romanian until the early 1940s. He wrote his last article in Romanian in 1943, which is also the year in which he began writing in French.

Composing life...

A review of the poem collection by Hussain Abbaspur

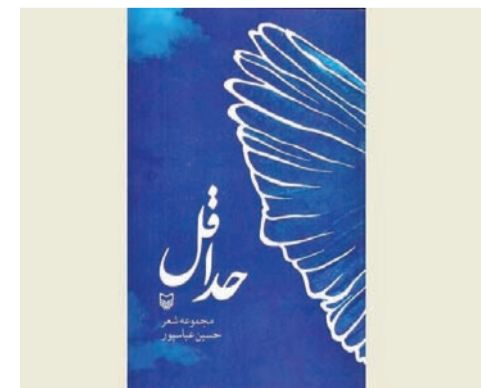
Today, when visual and multi-media media have effectively taken over the world, it can be challenging to create poetry. Still, Hussain Abbaspur, a poet, has succeeded in the poetry route with his poetry collection "at least" and his appealing language and thinking.

While utilizing the literary and original traditions of the Persian language, his poetry also incorporates fresh experiences with the language and the current dialect spoken by the people in his country. While maintaining

its elegance and beauty, the poem's message is also straightforward and generally understood.

The youthful poet, who was born in the 1990s, has a variety of ideas running through his head, and he is not afraid to experiment and challenge himself in the different poetic contexts of Persian literature.

With a cover created by Fatemeh Makvandi and a cost of 35,000 Tomans, the poetry collection "At least" was published by Soore Mehr Publishing House in 2021.



Persian fiction: historical background of modern fiction

Part 2

Although possibly inspired by Sir Humphry Davy's Consolations in Travel, or the Last Days of a Philosopher (1830), Talebof's Masalek al-mohsenin also resembles, in its loose structure

filled with incidents of everyday life, the picaresque novels of the sixteenth and early seventeenth century which heralded the rise of modern fiction in Europe.

The nineteenth century in Persia was an age of personal diaries

and travelogues, and the above fictional travelogues studied in the context of earlier travel diaries from the somewhat fanciful and mystical Bostan al-Siaheh, to the seemingly more matter of fact contemporaneous accounts of

daily observations by many Qajar princes and officials, illustrate the changes in the perception of the world in these early days of modern fiction.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica Concluded.