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TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 44th year | No. 14330 | Tuesday | October 11, 2022 | Mehr 19, 1401 | Rabi' Al awwal 14, 1444

Leader Highlights the West's Double Standards

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Report

The French call for NATO exit

Thousands of angry French protesters have gathered in the French capital to call for the country's withdrawal from the U.S.-led NATO military alliance. The protesters have also called for the resignation of the country's President Emmanuel Macron.

The demonstration reflects similar rallies being held across Europe in opposition to their respective government's support for the war in Ukraine. The constant supply of arms by mainly NATO members has prolonged the conflict in Eastern Europe, leading to the suffering of civilians caught up in the cross fire.

When Russia expressed legitimate concerns about the NATO military's eastward expansion toward its border, it opened the door to discussion, negotiation and proposals on security guarantees. However, these were ignored which many critics said, at the time, will lead to a military confrontation that will hurt ordinary Europeans. In this case, Ukrainian civilians are suffering from the human cost and ordinary civilians are falling into poverty.

Russia's sense of insecurity in the face of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seemed quite genuine, but critics say the media coverage has dismissed Moscow's initial concerns.

Opposition to NATO has been strong in Europe. The military alliance's summits are always met with anti-war demonstrations. In June this year, protesters marched during an anti-NATO rally ahead of the summit that was held in Madrid. The organizers said the American-led military alliance is not the solution to the war in Ukraine. U.S. arms manufacturers have made lucrative profits from the war. ▸ Page 5

Funeral held for defender of security in Tehran

IRNA/ Mohammadreza Alimadadi

A funeral procession was held on Monday morning for Salman Amir-Ahmadi, who was martyred during the violent protests in Tehran. The funeral ceremony was attended by a large group of people, including Tehran's governor general. Amir-Ahmadi, called "the martyr of defense for security", was killed in the Imamzadeh Hassan district of Tehran.

In a report published on Monday, the IRAN newspaper said since the riots began on September 16 following the death of Mahsa Ami, 24 persons who were defenders of security have been martyred.

"Unarmed people who attend the streets and alleys to protect the security of citizens against violence are martyred clandestinely by anti-revolution agents," the newspaper said.

It added in the early days of the riots most of the defenders of security were martyred by cold weapons but after the riots became more violent the number of martyrs started to increase.

Iran stands against Western blackmailing, Foreign Ministry says

TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman says Tehran will react to new sanctions and pressure by the U.S. and its European allies to gain new concessions or blackmail Iran.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Nasser Kanaani faced questions regarding the latest developments surrounding the negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

In the recent conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, it was reiterated that Tehran still adheres to the path of negotiations, Kanaani said.

"The views of the other side have been raised and we have heard some voices in Europe or the United States, who linked the process of talks with the recent internal issues in Iran and fueled the spread of false and inaccurate reports," the spokesman noted, adding that the internal issue of Iran is related to the government and people of Iran and the Islamic Republic will not allow any country to interfere in its internal affairs.

The issue of negotiations has a clear framework, Kanaani stated, noting that Iran's position has been stated many times and Tehran is ready to move forward in the same direction and reach a comprehensive agreement that will provide the interests of all parties.

"Based on mutual respect and interests, we are ready for bilateral interaction with all the parties who were on the path of negotiation so that the negotiation will come to a conclusion. ▸ Page 2

NIGC to increase gas exports to Iraq

TEHRAN - Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Dispatching Department announced an increase in Iran's gas exports to Iraq in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

Mohammadreza Joulaei made the remarks in a meeting with senior officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity that was held in Isfahan, central Iran on Sunday, Shana reported.

"Our relationship with Iraq is a strategic one," Joulaei said in the meeting.

Referring to the negotiations made in the meeting, the official said: "Annual and quarterly meetings are held with the officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity to discuss the gas export contract with this country, so technical and operational issues of this contract were also discussed in this meeting." ▸ Page 4

Interview

Ex-Iran futsal keeper Khorakchi praises Vahid Shamsaei

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iranian futsal expert, Mahmoud Khorakchi, believes that Vahid Shamsaei has done a great job in Iran's national team by bringing a new generation to the team.

"Shamsaei's work has been commendable," said Khorakchi in his interview with Tehran Times.

Iran lost to Japan 3-2 in the final match of the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian cup in Kuwait on Saturday. Shamsaei's side earned emphatic wins in their run to the final game. However, against Japan, they were far from their best as the opponents came from one goal down to win 3-2 in Kuwait City's Saad Al Abdullah Hall.

"We took part in the campaign with a young squad, and Shamsaei took a risk by gathering these young players just ahead of the Asian Cup. He didn't know what would happen in the tournament but was determined to bring a new generation to the Iranian futsal and did it in the best way possible," added Khorakchi, the Iranian professional futsal coach and former footballer.

When asked about the defeat of Japan, Khorakchi said: "Iran were unlucky, and the opponents' goalkeeper was on his best day. Japan had two opportunities and scored three goals! It was just due to some individual mistakes by our players," he added. ▸ Page 3

ISNA/ Mohammadreza Bolandi

Second national congress held for martyr sportspersons

The second national congress of 5,135 martyr sportspersons was held on Monday, October 10, in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. The congress was attended by IRGC chief Major General Hossein Salami, Sports and Youths Minister Hamid Sajadi and the country's sports managers. The message of the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was also read at the event.

Report

Iraq hesitates as Iran hastens to deal with SDS

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN - While the Iranian government is quick to do whatever is needed to confront the evil phenomenon of sand and dust storm, the Iraqi side seems to be so reluctant to take action.

In July, Iran's Department of Environment Chief, Ali Salajeqeh, and Iraq's Minister of Environment, Jasim Abdulazeez Humadi, signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran to boost cooperation to combat sand and dust storms.

According to the agreement, the two neighboring countries pledged to hold expert meetings on specified dates to find urgent solutions for the major concern. ▸ Page 7

Tehran to boost agritourism, official says

TEHRAN—The tourism authorities of Tehran province plan to develop agritourism, the provincial tourism chief has said.

For the first step, the preservation of cultivated fields and greenhouses is a key factor in revitalizing the agricultural industry, Parham Janfeshan explained on Monday.

It could also help stimulate employment across the province, 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. ▸ Page 6

Expressionist painter Habibollah Sadeqi subject of Iranian documentary

TEHRAN – Expressionist Habibollah Sadeqi, who was best known for his paintings on the Islamic Revolution and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, has become the topic of a documentary.

Mohammad-Saleh Hojjatoleslami is the director of the as-yet-untitled film, the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization announced on Sunday.

About 20 artists and cultural figures appear in the documentary, talking about Sadeqi, who died of heart failure in July at the age of 65.

The film will premiere in the upcoming edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival of documentary films, which will take place in Tehran in December.

Sadeqi was a member of the Iranian Academy of Arts and the Visual Arts Office of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

He also served as the director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) from 2003 to 2008. ▸ Page 8

Iran stands against Western blackmailing, Foreign Ministry says

From page 1 ▶ We emphasize that we will stand firmly and decisively against any attempt by the parties, especially the Western parties and the United States, to impose new sanctions and pressure for concessions and blackmail, and against any restrictive measures against the nation and government of Iran, and we will respond in a timely manner," he cautioned.

Iran cannot stand idly by in the face of chaos

In response to a question about the unconventional stance of some European countries regarding the recent unrest in Iran and the attack on the Iranian embassy in Denmark and the actions of the Foreign Ministry in this regard, the diplomat criticized the double standards of the West, saying, "Unfortunately, we are witnessing the double standards of these countries regarding the issue of human rights. It is very interesting that they talk about their opposition to violence and at the same time advise the Iranian government to exercise restraint and avoid violent actions against those who disturbed public security."

Kanaani continued, "Iran has repeatedly said that it listens to protests and criticism and believes in dialogue, but as the guardian of the security of its citizens, Iran cannot stand idly by in the face of chaos and disorder. Protest and riot are two different approaches and have two different results. Those who advise Iran to be non-violent allow violent people in their own countries to commit violent acts against Iranian embassies and attack them, which have diplomatic immunity based on the Vienna Convention. They even allow violent people to attack Iranian diplomats in a country that claims to be a democracy. They preach us the lessons of democracy and give moral advice on how to interact with citizens, while they allow an attacker to enter the embassy with a cold weapon and threaten and attack the Iranian ambassador, who is a lady, and beat up an Iranian employee."

> The Foreign Ministry spokesman says Iran launched attacks on bases of terrorists and separatists in northern Iraq after all official and diplomatic steps were exhausted.

Kanaani then questioned the Western governments' ethical recommendations to Iran on how to deal with protesters, noting that Iran has no problem with protest and criticism, but regarding violence and riots, it is obliged to provide security for its citizens.

He continued, "This is purely exercising double standards. They allow groups that have a history of terrorist acts to operate in countries and take action against Iranian embassies and diplomats. We see something in action and something in words. We recommend them to set aside hypocrisy and fulfill their legal duties and ensure the safety of our diplomats and adhere to the principles that they advise us in relation to their own citizens and in relation to the citizens of other countries."

Blocking Schengen for Iranians is unacceptable

Responding to a question regarding some European embassies not issuing Schengen visas to Iranian nationals, the spokesman said any restrictive action taken in this regard, if true, is unacceptable. "Creating restrictions on the travel of Iranian citizens is contrary to what was announced. They keep talking about the rights of Iranian people and on the other hand are creating restrictions on their travel. This is a contradictory approach and we hope this report would turn out as false and Iranian citizens travel according to their needs."

Iran and Iraq held consultations on KRG issues last week

Responding to a question about Iran and Iraq's disputes regarding the fact that the Iraqi Kurdistan Region is hosting bases for terrorist and separatist groups, the spokesman said what Iran did (bombing the bases) was after all official and diplomatic steps were exhausted.

"Iran gave a positive response to the Iraqi government's request for dialogue and a meeting was held last week between the relevant officials in Baghdad. In this meeting, the details of the investigation were discussed, and Iran presented its views. While the Iranian side emphasizes respecting Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, it expects the Iraqi central government to exercise its sovereignty over its entire land and prevent parts of this country's territory to be used as launchpad for attack on Iran's borders and border guards," the spokesman noted.

Kanaani continued, "Iran expressed its views and the Iraqi government listened to the views and gave the necessary promises to Iran. Iran, while maintaining its readiness to defend its security and the security of its borders and its citizens and maintaining readiness to deal with any illegal actions, is simultaneously waiting for the actions of the Iraqi government to fulfill its responsibilities and fully establish security on the borders of the two countries."

Interim Afghan governing body must provide security for citizens

Elsewhere in the presser, the spokesman expressed its sorrow and regret over the tragic terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, saying, "It is the responsibility of the interim governing body of Afghanistan to ensure the security of the people of Afghanistan. This is also the responsibility of human rights institutions. We have always tried hard in this regard and our relationship with the interim governing body of Afghanistan continues."

He then emphasized the necessity of forming an inclusive government and trying to meet the economic needs of Afghan citizens and expanding commercial cooperation and meeting basic needs in the fields of food and health and helping the Afghan people in the difficult economic conditions.

Iran transferred some Afghan citizens seriously injured in terrorist attacks to the country for treatment. Iran has also sent humanitarian aid to the areas affected by floods.

"In the political path, Iran has tried hard to convince the interim governing body of Afghanistan to form an inclusive government, both in the field of economic relations and the development of bilateral relations, to meet the needs of the people, and to contribute to regional multilateral approaches for peace and stability in this country," the spokesman stated.

Iran opposes arming parties in Ukraine war

TEHRAN— In a meeting with the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski late on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian once again underscored that Tehran has not supplied any party with weapons to be used in the war in Ukraine.

Amir Abdollahian reiterated that the principled position of Iran is to oppose arming any of the parties in the war with the aim of stopping the conflict.

Several media reports have spoken of Iran providing drones to Russia during the Ukraine war. Iran's top diplomat has explicitly rejected all these reports.

Tehran is seeking a peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine war, as evidenced by its efforts to deliver a peace initiative to the parties engaged in the war on July 31. The mediation was asked by the French President Emmanuel Macron during one of his phone calls with his Iranian counterpart, Ebrahim Raisi.

Previously, in a phone conversation with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto on July 22, Amir Abdollahian reiterated that Iran supports diplomatic solution to spell the end of the Ukraine war.

During the meeting, the two diplomats also exchanged views on the horizons of cooperation between the two countries in various political, economic, and cultural fields as well as consular issues.

The Iranian foreign minister welcomed the activation of relations between the two countries in various fields and said there are no restrictions in promoting bilateral relations and using the existing capacities.

Meanwhile, the Polish deputy foreign minister expressed his gratitude to the Iranian foreign minister for explaining Iran's views on issues of mutual interest, and explained Warsaw's views on various issues, including bilateral relations and important regional and international issues.

Iranian FM Amir Abdollahian (R) and Polish Deputy FM met in Tehran on Sunday, October 9.

Polish, Iranian diplomats hold talks on Ukraine war

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani also held talks with the Polish deputy foreign minister on Sunday.

Bagheri Kani and Jablonski assessed political consultations between Iran and Poland, and discussed bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues, including the Ukraine war.

Bagheri Kani talked about the political and economic potential of Poland and its standing in the European Union, noting, "Iran supports constructive role-playing by Poland for lasting peace and stability in international arena."

He also touched on the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in establishing stability and security in the region.

"Europe can expect a positive reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran in any field it chooses to cooperate and interact with Iran," Bagheri Kani stressed.

In an open reference to the Russia-Ukraine war, Bagheri Kani also insisted on Iran's push to end the armed conflict in Europe, saying, "The interests of the European nations rule that the negotiating table is the closest option at hand for resolution of disputes."

Voices are rising among Europeans against support for Ukraine as Europe's sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Russia have led to unprecedented electricity prices and high inflation.

The French people have held protests in Paris calling for withdrawal of France from the North Atlantic Organization (NATO) and asked the Maron government to stop sending arms to Ukraine.

Some politicians and analysts have even warned of a nuclear Armageddon if the war in Ukraine is not resolved politically.

The Ukraine war has entered a new stage as Russia on Monday pounded the capital Kiev and other Ukrainian cities.

The attacks followed after Russian leader Vladimir Putin warned of a "harsh" response in case of any further attacks such as that on the Crimean bridge.

Kiev's police officials say the blasts caused at least five deaths and twelve injuries, but there are no details about the causalities in other cities.

Kiev mayor, Vitaliy Klitschko, issued a statement via his official Telegram account, saying, "Several explosions in the Shevchenskivskyi district - in the center of the capital."

At least four explosions were heard, the Kiev Independent reported and according to public broadcaster Suspilne, an explosion was heard near a railway station in the city.

According to Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Goncharenko, one rocket fell "right in the center of the city".

"Cars are burning, and windows have been shattered in houses. There are dead," he tweeted.

The Russian military also struck several other cities including Lviv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnitsky, Dnipro, and Ternopil.

According to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal, 11 infrastructure facilities were damaged in eight regions as well as in Kiev.

"As of 11 a.m. (0800 GMT), 11 important infrastructure facilities in eight regions and the city of Kyiv were damaged," Shmygal said on Telegram.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it had hit "all designated targets" which included Ukrainian military, communications and energy infrastructure, Russian news agencies said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused Russia of trying to wipe his country off the face of the earth.

Meanwhile, Putin, who had called the Crimea bridge blast a "terrorist act" carried out by Ukraine secret services, vowed to react forcefully if such attacks continued.

"If attempts continue to carry out terrorist acts on our territory, Russia's responses will be harsh and in their scale will correspond to the level of threats created for the Russian Federation. No one should have any doubt about that," Putin said, according to Press TV.

China rejects U.S. interventionist policy, unlawful sanctions on Iran

TEHRAN- A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has stated that Beijing opposes the "illegal" sanctions that the United States has placed on Iran under the guise of continuous unrest there caused by the death of a young lady who was detained by police and died at the hospital.

Mao Ning made the comments on Sunday during her regular press conference in response to a query regarding the U.S. decision to sanction Iranian officials in accordance with its own domestic law while threatening to impose sanctions on Iran in light of the current circumstances in the country.

"China is opposed to the U.S.'s illegal unilateral sanctions on Iran," Mao said, adding that her country also opposes "interference in countries' internal affairs under any pretext."

She added, "We are against instigation of color revolutions in countries in the name of democracy and human rights."

On Thursday, the U.S. Treasury Department issued a statement declaring sanctions on

seven Iranian officials, including Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Eisa Zarepour. Vahidi is accused of ordering the suppression of riots following the death of Mahsa Amini, and Zarepour is accused of leading attempts to block the country's internet access in an effort to quell the riots.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, condemned the latest round of U.S. sanctions against Iran on Saturday, calling the restrictions the "backbone" of purported American human rights laws.

"Every day, a new list of sanctions against Iran is published under some pretext. This time, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Communications and five other Iranian officials were sanctioned by the U.S. government," he remarked.

The death of the 22-year-old Iranian woman Mahsa Amini sparked protests first in her home province of Kurdistan and then spread to a few other cities, including the country's capital Tehran. On September 13, Amini was taken to a morality police station to be trained along with others on Islamic dress code, however she fainted and died three days later.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the issue shortly after Amini passed away, and an official report released on Friday said that her death had been brought on by a disease rather than rumors of blows to the skull or other important bodily parts.

After rowdy rioters killed police officers and vandalized public property in many places, what had first been peaceful demonstrations became violent.

Diplomat says Iranian embassy in London is calm

TEHRAN- The Iranian chargé d'affaires has said Tehran's embassy in London is quiet and the Islamic Republic's flag is being raised once more.

Speaking to IRNA on Sunday night, Mehdi Hosseini-Matin stressed that the Islamic Republic's flag that the anti-revolutionary elements had insulted is hoisting again in its proper location.

Following the attack on Iran's representative office that was carried out by anti-revolutionary forces while London Police were not there, the official said that things are now peaceful.

He said after the recent violent actions, those individuals scaled the embassy's structure and insulted "our country's flag" in addition to breaking several windows.

It appeared that they had rushed to destroy the Iranian embassy building when there were no police around, he added.

Five males, according to the London police, have been detained for vandalizing the representative's office, and three more men and a woman have been held for disturbing the tranquility and assaulting police officers.

The Iranian embassy personnel have frequently emphasized the need to increase security following the anti-revolutionary attacks on the representative office.

In a related development, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated a few days ago that, in accordance with the Vienna Convention, countries are tasked to provide security for foreign embassies, and that the Foreign Ministry has emphasized the necessity of ensuring the security of its embassies through telephone contacts.

However, it still appears that the UK government is not taking real steps to secure the embassy.

IRGC chief calls on youth not to fall into trap set by enemies

TERHAN – The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned Monday of the trap set by Iran's enemies for the Iranian youth, calling on them to avoid it.

Speaking at a gathering of sport martyr families, General Hossein Salami said the enemy has devised a scenario to destroy Iran's glory and big achievements. General Salami said this scenario is being carried out through "evil measures." According to the IRGC chief, the enemy's scenario has come out of think tanks in Washington, New York, European capitals and Riyadh.

"The enemy can't see the brightness of Islamic Iran. They can't bear to see an Iran overcoming sanctions," he said, according to Fars News. "The enemies want to move the battle deep into the minds and hearts of our youth."

He added, "A small number of our youth were influenced by the enemy's insinuations. And we tell this handful of youth 'know the enemy' and 'do not become a political pawn for the enemy against the great country of Iran.' 'You should not become foot soldiers for our enemies' political generals.' These enemies never want the good for you. We know them. They are evil."

The remarks come after Iran was rocked by a wave of unrest that was markedly waged by teenagers locally known as "Dahe Hashtadi" which refers to the teenagers born in the 2000s.

A senior Iranian security official has said that the United States and Israel are behind the riots that erupted in Iran over the last weeks.

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Police Affairs, Majid Mirahmadi, confirmed that the U.S., Israel and their allies are running the riot operations room in the country, Fars News reported.

Mirahmadi averred that in the recent riots, the war room and the leadership of the scene were in the hands of America, the Zionist regime and their allies.

"Enemies target the security and stability of the country and make it unsafe. It doesn't matter to them whether this insecurity is for a woman who wears a headscarf or has little adherence to the veil, or a Shiite or a Sunni person," he said.

He added, "From the enemies' point of view, this insecurity must develop in every neighborhood and point. The most important issue is the psychological warfare the enemies are waging with their own media, considering the huge investments they have made on Persian-speaking satellite media."

The deputy interior minister stated that in the recent riots the enemies in particular carried out the murder-producing project. "The enemies took to the field unprecedentedly with all their energies, openly and covertly; our enemies do not hesitate to announce that they have used all their financial and media capabilities to destabilize Iran," he said.

The security official stated that the rioters created problems for the citizens. "God willing, these rioters will be dealt with decisively. From now on, the detainees at the scene of the riots will not be released until the trial and their trials will be held quickly and very decisive and deterring sentences will be issued against them."

He said, "The elements who undermine security are trying to implement the plans of the enemies of the people, especially America and the Zionist entity [Israel], and they will be dealt with decisively."

Ayatollah Khamenei highlights the West's double standards

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – In a recently published speech that was delivered in September, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei reflected on the double standards employed by the West in various fields, including sports boycotts.

The Leader said the West has moved to politicize sports despite its claims to the contrary. "You've seen what they have done with sports after the war in Ukraine! They banned some countries from participating in sporting events for political reasons. That is, they cross their own red lines with ease when it's in their interest. But then when our athlete refuses to compete with a Zionist opponent, they complain about it," he said, according to khamanei.ir.

He made the remarks in a September 11 meeting with officials of the second National Congress of Sports Martyrs. the speech that the Leader delivered during that meeting was broadcast at the venue of the congress on October 10, 2022.

Underlining that athletes should be careful not to trample on values for the sake of a medal, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Sometimes a person might be deprived of a medal when the athlete refuses to compete with his/her opponent who has been sent by the usurping regime. He/she is deprived of getting the medal, but he/she is victorious. If anyone violates this principle, it means that he/she's violating his/her moral victory for the sake of obtaining a technical victory in appearances. If you compete with that opponent, if you face them, it means that you've officially recognized the usurping regime - the regime that murders children, that mass murderer."

He added, "Therefore, no matter what interests are at stake here, it's still not worth it for someone to [compete against that opponent]. This is where we hear the leaders of arrogant powers and their followers, and in fact, the servants of the world's superpowers, raising their voices to say, 'Hey, don't politicize sports!'"

The Leader's remarks were made within the context of showing the authenticity of Iranian athletes refraining from competing with Israeli rivals, a move that has long been billed by Western media as a politicization of sports.

However, the Leader indicated that the Iranian athletes' abstention is morally correct and should not see through the prism of Western double standards. Because the West itself employs double standards in fields that are not limited to sporting events.

Pundits believe that these double standards have been employed in issues such as human rights, terrorism, social media, and freedom of expression. For instance, the West has gravely violated human rights in many West Asian countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. In Iran, the West has imposed severe economic sanctions that have negatively impacted the lives of ordinary Iranians. Also, the West has supported terrorist groups while pretending to counter terrorism.

Iran stands among the few countries in the world that highlighted the West's double standards in various fields. And this has come at a great cost.

Iran top human rights council releases report on Mahsa Amini

TEHRAN – Iran's High Council for Human Rights released a new report on the death of Mahsa Amini and the ensuing unrest to provide new information on the situation of human rights in the country.

The council said the report has been compiled "with the aim of providing information appertaining to the cause of the death of Mahsa Amini and the facts on the ground regarding the exploitation of the issue in question to spark off riots and insecurity in the society and violate people's right to security."

According to the report, following the transfer of Mahsa Amini to hospital, the Forensic Medicine Organization – on the order of the Tehran Prosecutor – immediately sent a specialized team to handle the case and conduct a detailed examination of her therein.

It added, "Once informed of the death, the body of the deceased was transferred to the Dissection Hall of the Tehran Province Diagnostic and Laboratory Centre where physical examination and autopsy were performed thereon. In dealing with the case, all the criteria and indicators for determining the cause of the death, physical examination and internal organs of the body as well as samples taken from the tissues and internal organs thereof were sent to specialized laboratories so that – as soon as the results of the tests were received and taking into account the results of the examinations and the autopsy, the contents of the hospital file and her medical records, as well as the opinions of experts in related fields, all of which were gathered under the supervision of a special medical commission formed in the Forensic Medicine Organization by the order of the Tehran Prosecutor – the real cause of the death would subsequently be unraveled and notified to the judicial authority."

Citing a coroner's report on the death of Mahsa Amini, the report said that the death was not caused by blows to the head or any vital organs and parts of the body.

The report also drew extensively on the coroner's report, the Supreme Leader's remarks, the president's remarks, and an explanatory statement by the Intelligence Ministry in explaining the human rights situation in the country.

"The Forensic Medicine Organization in any country is considered the most competent and specialized institution to produce opinion on issues such as cause of death. Certain human rights mechanisms and countries have unfortunately been prejudiced and judgmental from the very beginning and talked about blows to the head of the foregoing person and even claimed that she was murdered. Albeit it was crystal clear in the first days that there was no beating, now with the statement of the Forensic Medicine Organization, it is seriously expected that they will immediately rectify their mistake which has been made either on purpose or thoughtlessly," the report said.

It added, "Certain human rights mechanisms and countries have described the riotous gatherings that disrupt security and public order as peaceful and supported the rioters. Of course, their political objectives are no mystery to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Now that more dimensions of the riots and the hands at play have been unraveled – especially following the statement of the Ministry of Intelligence – they are seriously expected to change their positions."

The report continued, "The peaceful gatherings that took place in different parts of the country following the death of the foregoing person have unfortunately morphed into riots and vandalism. In the meantime, certain European countries and the United States started to intervene and support the rioters by openly interfering in Iran's internal affairs in a completely unconventional manner and contrary to international standards. Other external factors such as terrorist groups and foreign-based Persian language networks also directed their agents and capacities in the riots and provided support thereto. During the riots, certain individuals, led by anti-establishment and terrorist movements, resorted to the worst kind of violence against the people and the police, brandishing combat rifles, armes blanches and incendiaries, while diverting people's requests and demands. The rioters used social media networks to organize the riots and carry out acts of destruction, thereby inciting and provoking everyone to confront the police. During the disruptive riots, many public and private properties were set ablaze or looted; some law enforcement officers and ordinary people were also killed or injured by armes blanches and firearms brandished by the rioters. Defenseless administrative centers and public services such as banks, ATMs, ambulances, public transportation, police vehicles, fire engines and religious places were widely attacked, many of which were destroyed and burned."

It noted, "The riots have nothing to do with the death of Mahsa Amini, hijab and women's rights. The enemies of Iran used this pretext and sparked chaos and riots with their continuous plans. In the meantime, those who did not commit acts of sabotage and security- disturbing measures are basically separate from those who entered the riots under the command of certain elements. That is why half of the detainees have hitherto been released based upon Islamic leniency."

The report concluded, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to protecting the basic rights and freedoms of its people according to the accepted laws and obligations; and therefore, it will seriously pursue any restrictions or violations of rights. In this regard, additional reports pertaining the destruction of public and private property and how to deal with judicial cases will be compiled and presented."

SPORTS

Ex-Iran futsal keeper Khorakchi praises Vahid Shamsaei

Frome Page 1 ▸ "To become the runners up in the AFC Asian Cup with these young players, 10 of whom were playing for the first time in the international competitions, is a great result and will not be a dark spot in Shamsai's career," he said.

Referring to Iran's high-scoring wins in Kuwait, Khorakchi said: "It's not fair to say that Iran's opponents were weak and the wins with many goals were unimportant. Instead, in my opinion, it was due to the strength of the Iran national team. If we were not unlucky in the final game, we could have won another big win."

Team Melli to depart Iran on Nov. 14

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will travel to Doha, Qatar on Nov. 14.

Mehdi Mohammad Nabi, a member of Iran Football Federation's Board of Directors, had previously said Team Melli will leave Tehran on Nov. 16.

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

Carlos Queiroz's side will start the campaign with a match against England on Nov. 21.

Team Melli will likely play a warm-up match ahead of the Qatar's World Cup.

Iran edged Uruguay 1-0 and drew 1-1 with Senegal in late September in a training camp in Austria.

Iran drop in World Futsal Ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team dropped one place in the world futsal ranking released on Sunday.

Team Melli moved down to seventh place in the table with 1,549 points.

Brazil lead the table with 1,792 points.

Spain (1,771) and Portugal (1,750) sit in the second and third places, respectively.

Russia (1,687) and Argentina (1,667) are fourth and fifth in the table.

Iran remain the best Asian team in the table despite losing to Japan at the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Japan, who defeated Iran 3-2 in the final match, moved up one place to 13th.

Tehran derby to be held after 2022 World Cup

TEHRAN – Tehran derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis football teams will be held after the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The match was scheduled for Nov. 4 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium but has been reportedly postponed.

Soheil Mahdi, head of the Iran Football League Organization, said the Matchweek 12 of Iran league will not be held due to holding a camp ahead of 2022 World Cup.

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

Azmoun faces World Cup injury heartbreak

TEHRAN - Iran international striker Sardar Azmoun could miss the World Cup after a calf injury sustained on club duty at Bayer Leverkusen left him sidelined for six to eight weeks.

"Sardar Azmoun suffered a torn right calf muscle on Tuesday evening during the warm-up before the 2-0 defeat at FC Porto in the Champions League," Bayer Leverkusen said in a statement.

The 27-year-old's estimated time of absence will be between six and eight weeks, the club said.

The World Cup in Qatar gets underway on November 20 with Iran facing England in their opening match the following day.

Iran also face Wales and the United States in Group B.

Azmoun has an impressive record of 41 goals from his 65 international appearances.

Arsenal, Chelsea interested in signing Taremi: report

TEHRAN - Arsenal could rival Chelsea for the signature of 30-year-old Iranian international striker Mehdi Teremi.

A Bola claims Taremi has fired his way onto Mikel Arteta's shortlist with seven goals and six assists in 11 games.

The 30-year-old striker currently plays for FC Porto and is penciled in to make a switch to England after the World Cup.

The Iran international is in his third season with Porto.

And Taremi, who has a total of 56 strikes for the Portuguese giant, has already been linked with a move to Chelsea.

But it's Arsenal who are reportedly leading the race this winter.

Sporting director Edu Gaspar usually only targets players under the age of 30.

But he is apparently willing to break his own rule this once in order to sign Taremi for title-chasing Arteta.

Arsenal's impressive boss fears Eddie Nketiah alone would not be able to continue the club's title charge should star man Jesus suffer an injury.

The Brazilian has five goals and four assists since his £45million switch from Manchester City.

And Arteta reckons only Taremi would be able to carry the torch in case of a setback in the second half of the campaign.

The striker's representatives have already told Porto he is considering a change of scenery at the start of 2023.

Sergio Conceicao's side are no strangers to doing business in the winter market, with Luis Diaz joining Liverpool last January.

And Porto are open to letting Taremi go for the right price.

But the ace will first strut his stuff for Iran at the World Cup, with their opening match in Group B against none other than Gareth Southgate's England.

Arsenal currently sit top of the table after beating Liverpool 3-2 on Sunday.

Iran learn fate at 2022 Asian Water Polo Championship

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their opponents at the 2022 Asian Water Polo Championship.

The competition will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 7 to 13.

Iran, headed by Aleksander Ciric, have been drawn along with Kazakhstan, India, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Thailand in Group A.

Group B consists of Japan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuwait.

The Asian Water Polo Championship serves as qualification for the 2023 World Water Polo Championship to be held in Fukuoka, Japan.

The top two teams as well as hosts Japan will take part in the world championship.

NIGC to increase gas exports to Iraq

From page 1 ▶ Referring to the beginning of the cold season in Iran and the increase in gas consumption in the domestic sector, the NIGC official stated: "Considering the amount of consumption in the last six months and the demand increase in the next six months, the necessary technical and operational investigations have been carried out so that we do not have any problems for exports and the gas export is going to be carried out according to the agreement made with the Iraqi parties."

Ahmed Musa, spokesman for the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, said on Sunday that his country paid all its debts for gas imports to Iran, adding an Iraqi delegation is visiting Iran to discuss an increase in gas imports.

In an interview with Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mousa said that his country imports 20 million cubic meters of gas from Iran every day and that Iraq needs more gas now.

The official added that his country has no debts to Iran over the gas imports, adding: "Negotiations, meetings, and visits to Iran are ongoing with the aim of coordination on an increase in gas imports."

Iran's exports to U.S. rise 8.5 folds in 8 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's exports to the United States increased by 8.5 folds in the first eight months of 2022 from the same period in 2021.

Based on the data released by the United States Census Bureau, the U.S. imported commodities worth $5.1 million from Iran in the first eight months of this year, while the figure was only $600,000 in the same period of time in the past year, IRNA reported.

According to the mentioned data, the two countries traded $33 million worth of goods in the mentioned eight months, rising 28 percent from the figure in the first eight months of 2021.

The United States Census Bureau's data shows that the value of U.S. export to Iran increased 11 percent to $27.9 million in the eight-month period of this year, from $25.1 million in the same time span of the previous year.

As previously reported by this bureau, the value of trade between Iran and the United States was $23.8 million in the first half of 2022, rising 18 percent from the figure in the first half of 2021.

The U.S. imported commodities worth $5 million from Iran in the first half of this year, while the figure was $300,000 in the same period of time in the past year.

The United States Census Bureau's data shows that the value of U.S. export to Iran fell five percent to $18.8 million in the six-month period of this year, from $19.8 million in the same time span of the previous year.

Iran invites Poland to open trade center in Tehran

TEHRAN – In a meeting between Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Masoud Mirkazemi and Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski on Sunday, the Iranian side invited Poland to open a trade center in Tehran.

During the meeting the two sides also discussed launching a direct flight between Tehran and Warsaw by the end of 2022, ISNA reported.

Referring to the establishment of Iran's trade center by the private sector in Poland, Mirkazemi, who is the head of the Iran-Poland Joint Economic Committee, invited the authorities and the private sector of this country to set up a trade center in Tehran.

He expressed dissatisfaction with the level of trade between the two countries, saying: "Both countries have high capacities, but the level of economic relations is not at all commensurate with this capacity; a lot of effort is required to increase trade exchanges."

Pointing to the importance of creating infrastructure for the development of relations between the two countries, he added: "Establishing a direct flight between Tehran and Warsaw is one of the necessities."

PBO Head Masoud Mirkazemi (R) and Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski meet in Tehran on Sunday.

"Iran is ready to cooperate with Poland in the fields of energy, agriculture, industry, mining, marine economy, export of knowledge-based products and development of tourism industry," the official said, referring to the recent negotiations with the minister of foreign affairs of Poland.

He further underlined the importance of holding a joint economic committee meeting between the two countries, and emphasized: "The officials of the two countries should work actively to solve the problems of their private sectors to increase trade between the two countries."

Jablonski for his part called for the increase of economic relations between the two countries. saying: "This year, several economic delegations from Poland have come to Iran, but this process should be accelerated."

Referring to Warsaw's efforts to establish a direct airline between the two countries, he said: "One of the important and well-known airline companies is obtaining permission and coordination with the Iranian authorities, and we hope that these flights will be opened before 2023."

Referring to Iran's capabilities in various sectors, Poland's deputy foreign minister called for increasing cooperation in the fields of agriculture, energy, and taxes.

Iran begins collaborating with Russian firms to swap, barter oil products

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said on Sunday that the country has started collaborating with some Russian companies for bartering and swapping petroleum products in the Caspian Sea region, Shana reported.

"We have started working with some Russian companies for exporting, bartering, and swapping oil products from the Caspian Sea region," Oji said.

According to the minister, Iran has the capacity to export, barter, and swap 10 million tons of such products with Russia.

"Both Iran and Russia have very good capacities in the fields of oil, gas, and petrochemicals; Fortunately, during this period, we have signed deals worth nearly four billion dollars for developing fields and [deals worth] 40 billion dollars for the construction of gas export lines and LNG units," he added.

The official noted that the oil ministry has prepared contracts for the development of fields in the form of a new model, in which the investor is insured and supported in all aspects by the Oil Ministry and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"This type of contract is very attractive for Russian investors and fortunately, considering the importance of energy that we all know about in the world today, it has created a golden opportunity to sign other contracts with Russians in the future," Oji said.

Russia finalizing plan to develop 8 oil, gas fields in Iran

Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Ahmad Asadzadeh also said on Sunday that Russia is developing a comprehensive development plan for six oil fields and two gas fields in Iran and contracts for these fields are planned to be signed by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2023).

Referring to Oji's visit to Moscow to participate in the Caspian Economic Conference, Asadzadeh said: "In this visit, the minister met with Alexander Novak, the deputy prime minister of Russia, and consulted on holding a joint commission in Russia from October 30 to November 1 and it was decided that the two sides should finalize and prepare the road map for cooperation as soon as possible."

Loading, unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port stands at 23m tons in H1

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 23 million tons of commodities have been loaded and unloaded in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

Behrouz Aqaei, the director-general of Khuzestan's Ports and Maritime Department, said that the market-oriented approach, paying special attention to the issue of customer orientation and trying to make maximum use of the available marine and port capacities has led to a seven-percent growth in ship traffic in this port compared to the same period last year.

As previously reported, 45.976 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in Imam Khomeini during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), rising 17 percent as compared to the preceding year.

The annual loading and unloading of non-oil goods in Imam Khomeini port increased 11 percent to stand at 29 million tons.

Meanwhile, 16.665 million tons of oil products were loaded and unloaded in the port during the previous year, with four million tons growth from its preceding year.

According to a recent report released by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of the country has risen 4.8 percent during the first half of the present year, as compared to the first half of the past year.

Based on the mentioned report, 109.733 million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded in the ports of Iran during the first half of this year, while the figure was 104.698 million tons in the first half of the previous year.

As reported, loading and unloading of non-oil products stood at 54.777 million tons in the six-month of this year, up 0.8 percent from 54.366 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

In terms of oil products, this year's figure was 54.955 million tons, rising 9.2 percent from 50.331 million tons in the past year.

For the container sector, a growth of 8.2 percent was achieved, as 1.273 million TEUs were loaded and unloaded in the first half of this year, while the figure was 1.176 million TEUs in the first half of the past year.

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

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

TEDPIX falls 1,100 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,156 points to 1.303 million on Monday.

As reported, over 3.802 billion securities worth 18.856 trillion rials (about $65 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 627 points, while the second market's index lost 6,769 points.

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

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.

Exclusive exhibit of Iranian products to open in Doha on Wednesday

TEHRAN- An exclusive exhibition of Iranian products will kick off in Doha on Wednesday, the managing director Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) announced.

Hooman Razdar said that the four-day event will be opened in about 1000 square meters of exhibition space with the participation of more than 15 capable Iranian companies and with the presence of Iran's vice president for the economic affairs.

The companies present in this exhibition showcase their capabilities in the fields of carpets, handicrafts, food, furniture, and jewelry, and with the approach of introducing Iran's trade capabilities in Qatar and using this country as a connecting corridor to the third countries, he further explained.

According to Razdar, the ultimate goal of holding these exhibitions is B-2-B meetings so that businessmen can connect with each other in their respective fields.

Back on June 6, Iran and Qatar had inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the end of the two countries' eighth Joint Economic Committee meeting in Doha to outline avenues for future cooperation.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani who co-chaired the committee meeting.

This memorandum determines the framework of cooperation in various fields including transit, transportation, industry and trade, energy, customs and free zones, tourism, culture, agriculture, sports, etc.

Speaking at the eighth meeting of the Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee, Mehrabian emphasized the Iranian government's approach to developing international relations and said: "Considering our good relations in the past, this meeting should be a new chapter in the development of cooperation between the two countries."

"We hope to see a significant increase in interactions with the agreements reached in this meeting," he added.

"One of the most important goals of the meeting is to support the Iranian and Qatari private sectors, and we are happy to see that a large conference with the participation of Iranian businessmen is being held in Doha at the same time as the meeting of the joint committee," Mehrabian said.

According to the official, eight MOUs on food, medical industry, knowledge-based companies, etc. were also signed between businessmen of the two countries on the sidelines of the mentioned meeting.

The Iranian energy minister noted that Iran and Qatar have set financial goals for 2023 and hope to see doubled economic relations and trade balance between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak has said his organization will fully support both Iranian and Qatari businessmen to facilitate their trade exchanges.

"Once the relationship between the two countries' traders is established, the organization will make every effort to support the continuation of these collaborations," Peyman-Pak said in mid-June.

The TPO head further expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of economic relations between the two countries and said: "Despite close political relations with Iran, Qatar has a very low share in trade with the Islamic Republic, and if we look at the trade balance between the two countries, the figure is very low and insignificant."

The traders of the two countries must be acquainted with each other's capacities in order to form a constructive trade relationship, and the TPO also supports and provides the requirements in this regard including logistics, customs, monetary, financial, and banking facilities.

The French call for NATO exit

From page 1 ▶ Last month, an estimated 70,000 people protested in Prague against the Czech government, calling on the ruling coalition to do more to control soaring energy prices and voicing opposition to the European Union and NATO.

For many years, the Kremlin has made it clear that if NATO continued to mass troops and weapons on the Russian border, the expansion would likely be met with serious resistance by the Russians, even with military action. That view was not just limited to Russian officials. Even some prominent American foreign policy experts backing the same possible scenario. The current director of the CIA, William Burns, has been warning about the provocation and consequences of NATO's expansion on Russia for more than 20 years now.

On the other hand, Europe's decision to cave into American pressure and impose unprecedented sanctions on Moscow has heavily restricted the gas supplies to the continent which have instead pushed energy prices up, leaving many in poverty. Europe relied on 40% of Russian gas before the conflict erupted.

The shortage of energy on the continent and rising prices for the fuel has been met with angry voters bringing down governments at the polling stations.

A recent poll by Elabe reveals that support for anti-Russian sanctions is on the decline across France. The survey shows only 40% of the French population are in favor of the anti-Russian sanctions. The poll also reveals that 32% of French people think the anti-Russia sanctions must be restricted to diminish their effect on the livelihoods of the French people.

The opposition French Patriots party again called for the demonstrations after the initial protests that took place on

September 3rd. The protesters want Macron to leave office and withdraw from both NATO and the European Union.

The French government, like others in Europe, is adopting or considering various emergency measures ahead of the winter, such as the possibility of three-hour power outages in the United Kingdom.

As inflation levels are biting, a group of French intellectuals, including Nobel literature prize winner Annie Ernaux, have urged people to join the protests being organized by the left for next week. They accuse President Macron of not doing enough to help the poor cope with high prices while the profits of some companies are spiking.

The group of 69 signatories, including writers, film directors and university teachers, said in a text published in the Journal Du Dimanche that "Emmanuel Macron is using inflation to widen the wealth gap, to boost capital income at the expense of the rest."

"It is all a matter of political will," said the text, co-signed by Ernaux, who on Thursday became the first French woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The statement also said the government has not done enough to fight the skyrocketing energy prices and declined to raise taxes on companies making enormous profits as a result of high inflation.

The signatories have also urged the public to join the protest march planned for October 16, which is being organized by the political movement of the France Unbowed party, which this year struck an alliance with more moderate leftwing parties to form France's largest opposition bloc.

Next week's protest is being promoted as "against the high cost of living and climate inaction". It comes as Macron faces stiff resistance from unions over a planned pensions reform and as strikes by workers demanding a pay rise from retail to refineries have disrupted parts of the economy.

There is more misery for the French government as a number of fuel service stations are grappling with supply problems amid strike action at refineries run by major oil companies TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil. The walkout by members of the national trade union center CGT mainly over pay has disrupted operations at refineries and storage facilities. The industrial action has forced the government to tap into the country's strategic reserves.

Environment Minister Christophe Bechu earlier told French media the government will, for the time being, not be rationing petrol for drivers or restrict the use of service stations in response to supply problems. "We haven't reached this point yet," Bechu said when asked if the government would impose any national measures beyond the bans already in place in some regions on filling large flat-sided metal containers for storing or transporting petrol.

The strikes at the refineries of ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies will continue, union officials at both companies have said. "It is continuing everywhere," a CGT representative said, adding that there had been no contact from TotalEnergies since Saturday's call by the union for the company's managers to begin talks on pay.

In some areas, the share of affected petrol stations is much higher than the national average. An interactive map compiled by the website mon-essence.fr, where more than 100,000 users have reported outages in recent days, shows a large majority of petrol stations in and around Paris were marked out of service.

Across France, long queues have been seen outside fuel stations. "The waiting line will take you at least one-and-a-half hours or two", motorist Jean Galibert said as he entered the last stretch of a 700-metre tailback in front of a Paris service station. Another motorist, Franck Chang, said, "This situation right behind me reflects the state of France. We're struggling."

Reports say the strikes have reduced France's total refinery output by more than 60% which will be seen as another blow to the French government. On Sunday, TotalEnergies claimed to have offered to bring forward wage talks, in response to union demands, as it strongly seeks to end the industrial action that has disrupted supplies to almost a third of French petrol stations.

Amid warnings that energy shortages and rising inflation are set to extend in coming winter, further protests and anger at governments' economic policies across Europe are expected to expand.

Explosions rock Kiev, other Ukrainian cities, leaving several dead, injured

Russia's military struck Kiev and other Ukrainian cities on Monday with President Vladimir Putin warning of a "harsh" response in case of any further attacks such as that on the Crimean Bridge.

Kiev's police officials say the blasts caused at least five deaths and twelve injuries there, but there are no details about the causalities in other cities.

Kiev mayor, Vitaliy Klitschko, issued a statement via his official Telegram account, saying, "Several explosions in the Shevchenskivskyi district - in the center of the capital."

At least four explosions were heard, the Kiev Independent reported and according to public broadcaster Suspilne, an explosion was heard near a railway station in the city.

According to Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Goncharenko, one rocket fell "right in the center of the city".

"Cars are burning, and windows have been shattered in houses. There are dead," he tweeted.

The Russian military also struck several other cities including Lviv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnitsky, Dnipro, and Ternopil.

According to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal, 11 infrastructure facilities were damaged in eight regions as well as in Kiev on Monday.

"As of 11 a.m. (0800 GMT), 11 important infrastructure facilities in eight regions and the city of Kyiv were damaged," Shmygal said on Telegram.

Russia's defense ministry said it had hit "all designated targets" which included Ukrainian military, communications and energy infrastructure, Russian news agencies said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Monday accused Russia of trying to wipe his country off the face of the earth.

Meanwhile, Putin, who had called the Crimea bridge blast a "terrorist act" carried out by Ukraine secret services, vowed on Monday to react forcefully if such attacks continued.

"If attempts continue to carry out terrorist acts on our territory, Russia's responses will be harsh and in their scale will correspond to the level of threats created for the Russian Federation. No one should have any doubt about that," Putin said.

The bomb on Saturday set fire to seven oil tankers that were being carried by rail to Crimea, sparking a massive blaze and killing three people.

"It is obvious that the Ukrainian secret services ordered, organised and carried out the terrorist attack aimed at destroying Russia's critical civilian infrastructure," Putin said of the bridge explosion.

Ukraine has not claimed responsibility for the explosion. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak has, however, declared in a Twitter message that the bombing was "the beginning."

The blast came amid a February-present Russian "special military operation" in Ukraine, which has been seeking to defend the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk's pro-Russian population against persecution by Kiev.

(Source: Press TV)

New York Muslim police society sends relief goods to Pakistan

The New York Police Department's Muslim Officers Society sent their first shipment of relief goods to flood-hit Pakistan on Sunday.

The clothes and cleaning materials collected by the members of the society for people affected by the floods that hit Pakistan in August were dispatched to the country from John F. Kennedy International Airport with the sponsorship of Turkish Airlines Cargo.

Speaking following the delivery of relief goods to Turkish Airlines Cargo at the airport, Adeel Rana, the head of the NYPD Muslim Officers Society, said millions of people's homes were under water in the flood disaster in Pakistan and they needed all kinds of help, adding they would continue to send aid from New York after the first cargo.

Rana also thanked Turkey's Consul General Reyhan Ozgur and Turkish Airlines, which mediated the free delivery of the aid cargo to Pakistan.

The society's vice chairman, Ali Hammutoglu, said they established delivery centers at three different points in New York and much more aid materials were collected in a short time than they expected.

For the next cargo, 20 tons of medical supplies to be used in first aid activities will be sent to the disaster victims in Pakistan, he added.

Putin accuses Ukraine of carrying out 'terrorist attack' on Crimea bridge

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday accused Ukrainian intelligence of carrying out what he said was a "terrorist attack" on the Kerch Bridge.

At least three people were killed in Saturday's explosion on the road and rail crossing that is Russia's sole land link with Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula it annexed in 2014.

There is no doubt that this is a terrorist attack aimed at destroying critical civilian infrastructure of the Russian Federation," Putin said during a meeting with Alexander Bastrykin, head of the Russian Investigative Committee.

He said the "special services of Ukraine" were the "authors and performers" of the blast.

Bastrykin said investigators had found evidence of Ukrainian involvement, adding that some Russian citizens and nationals of "foreign states" aided Ukrainian intelligence in the attack.

The explosion is being investigated as a terrorism case, he told Putin.

WORLD HEADLINES

Van der Bellen wins 2nd term as Austria's president

Austria's President Alexander Van der Bellen has secured a second six-year term, according to exit polls on Sunday.

Bellen, a 78-year-old former leader of the Greens, won nearly 56% of votes to avoid a runoff.

Walter Rosenkranz, the candidate for the far-right Freedom Party, came in second with around 18%, followed by Beer Party leader Dominik Wlazny at 8.5%.

While some 6.4 million Austrians were eligible to cast their ballots, voter turnout was roughly around 66%.

Official results were expected to be announced on Monday.

German cyber security chief to be sacked over alleged ties to Russia: reports

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser wants to replace Arne Schoenbohm, the head of the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), local media reported on Monday citing sources close to the minister.

"It is being examined how a quick change of president can be achieved. The planned joint press conference by Faeser and Schoenbohm on Thursday will be canceled," Bild newspaper quoted ministry sources as saying.

Earlier, German ZDF public broadcasting network reported about links of the BSI president to an obscure association called "Cyber-Sicherheitsrat Deutschland e. V." The association is said to have contacts with Russian secret services. Schoenbohm was the founding president of the association until 2016.

The Berlin-based security circles are taking this case very seriously. Security authorities would now "turn over every stone" with regard to the activities of the club, the Bild daily reported.

They will also look into which companies purchased software from Russian provider Protelion (formerly Infotecs). Protelion used its membership in the association "Cyber Security Council Germany" for the distribution of the possibly insecure software.

Japan, U.S. simulate remote-island defense in joint drill

Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Marine Corps on Monday conducted a joint drill simulating the defense of remote islands at a training area in Hokkaido, using the Marines' High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS.

The drill, held at Yausubetsu Training Area in the northernmost main island's east, was part of ongoing joint exercises from Oct. 1 to 14 and involved about 150 Hokkaido-based Japanese ground force personnel and about 40 Marines from Okinawa. The training was open to media outlets.

The Japanese and U.S. forces are working to enhance their deterrent and response capabilities amid heightened tensions surrounding Taiwan, which China claims as its own and has pledged to unify by force if necessary.

During Monday's drill, the Japanese and U.S. personnel checked coordination between their systems, with multiple launch rocket systems from the Japanese side firing a total of 24 rockets at a target about 13 kilometers away.

The ongoing joint exercises, held across Hokkaido, are supposed to draw roughly 2,100 GSDF personnel and about 1,400 Marines while involving six MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft of the Marines and two similar aircraft of the U.S. Air Force.

NATO mulling options to carry out aggression against Minsk: Lukashenko

The leader of NATO and some European countries are considering options to carry out aggression against Belarus, up to conducting a nuclear attack, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said at a meeting on security issues on Monday.

"The situation around Belarus, as we have already said, remains tense. One of the reasons is that the West keeps arguing that the Belarusian army will directly engage [in Russia's] special military operation in Ukraine. Having been influenced by such bogus stories, the military and political leader of the North Atlantic Alliance and a number of European countries are now openly considering options to carry out aggression against our country, up to conducting a nuclear strike," the BelTA news agency quoted Lukashenko as saying.

He noted that it was no news for the Belarusian authorities. "I warned you a long time ago that their goal today is not to prevent us from fighting on the Russian side directly in Ukraine, to prevent, God forbid, a nuclear strike and so on. That's not the main thing. The main goal, which has remained unchanged since the start, is to drag us into war and do away with Russia and Belarus all together," Lukashenko stressed.

North Korea says missile tests are practice for 'tactical nuclear strikes' on South Korea

North Korean state media has broken its silence over the country's recent spate of missile tests, claiming they were part of a series of simulated procedures intended to demonstrate its readiness to fire tactical nuclear warheads at potential targets in South Korea.

North Korea has tested ballistic missiles seven times since September 25, the latest of 25 launch events of ballistic and cruise missiles this year, according to a CNN count, raising tensions to their highest level since 2017.

Quoting leader Kim Jong Un, who oversaw the drills, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the tests, which coincided with nearby military drills between the United States, South Korea, and Japan, showed Pyongyang was ready to respond to regional tensions by involving its "huge armed forces."

The KCNA said the series of seven drills of North Korea's "tactical nuclear operation units" showed that its "nuclear combat forces" are "fully ready to hit and wipe out the set objects at the intended places in the set time."

Tehran to boost agritourism, official says

From page 1 ▶ 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."

UNESCO-designated desert offers sand therapy tours

TEHRAN—The UNESCO-registered Lut desert, in the heart of the Iranian plateau, has recently hosted a tour dedicated to health tourism and sand therapy, a local tourism official has said.

The two-day tour was aimed at introducing the region's tourist attractions and highlighting the desert's high capacity for sand therapy, Mohammadreza Vaezi explained on Monday.

Various measures were taken to ensure the well-being of the tour participants, including installing field toilets, setting up Siah-Chador (nomadic black tents) and drinking water tankers, and creating an access path, the official added.

The Lut Desert, widely referred to as Dasht-e Lut ("Emptiness Plain"), is a large salt desert encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. It is the world's 27th-largest desert and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 17, 2016.

The vast desert is teeming with giant dunes, shifting sands, salt plains, and wind-hewn kaluts, offering visitors epic journeys of breathtaking beauty and wilderness. It is a destination for people who are in search of new adventures; outstanding scenery and unparalleled serenity.

It is considered one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers. Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA show that the Lut Desert is the hottest spot on Earth. Based on the research, it was the hottest during five of the seven years and had the highest temperature overall: 70.7°C in 2005.

Historical cistern in central Iran restored

TEHRAN—A restoration work has come to an end on a Qajar-era (1789-1925) Ab-Anbar (cistern), which is located in the city of Bafq, the central province of Yazd, Bafq's tourism chief has said.

The project involved strengthening the mud-brick structure, repairing stairs and rooftops, and replacing worn-out materials, Leili Ranjbar said on Monday.

The historical monument is one of the biggest cisterns in the region, which is located in the historical texture of the city, she noted.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

It is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways, together with streets, public squares, and courtyards, contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

New goal for Tang-e Chogan: tourist-friendly image

TEHRAN— In Tang-e Chogan, a majestic treasure of Sassanid arts, a new project has been launched to make the southern Iranian site more tourist-friendly.

The project is aimed at developing an appropriate access road, a prayer hall, landscaping, electricity and water supply, electrical installations, lighting, sanitary facilities, and a parking lot, Fars province's tourism chief said on Sunday.

Tang-e Chogan was once a royal site of the traditional polo game dedicated to Sasanian kings and courtiers. It is home to six reliefs related to Shapur I and Bahram I and II. There is also a large statue of Shapur I, which is six meters high, located in the Shapur Cave, at a height of about 700 meters from the river bed.

Moreover, the site embraces larger and more crowded reliefs than any other Sassanid era reliefs, with three of them being more than 30 square meters in size and a body of more than 30 persons in each relief.

The first relief, which is larger and more crowded than any other one, is a scene celebrating Shapur I's victory over the Roman Empire. Shapur I can be seen in the center of the relief riding on a horse and Gordianus's corpse is under the feet of Shapur's horse, Valerian's hands are held captive in Shapur's hand and Philip kneels in front of Shapoor's horse and demands peace. The Persian military and officers are also behind Shapur in five rows of horses and the Roman officers and noblemen are seen in 5 rows carrying gifts and offerings in front of King Shapur I.

The second relief represents the victory of King Bahram II over the Arabs. On the left is Bahram on horseback, and the Arabs are led by Iranian commanders to offer the king horses and camels.

The third one shows the ceremony of the Bahram I receiveing a royal ring from Ahura Mazda. The engraving of this amazing relief is very artistic and even the wrinkles and the details of the clothes and so on are all beautifully illustrated. Everything in this relief fits in amazingly well. Even the physical details of the horse and the veins on the horse's legs have been shown.

The fourth depicts the scene of the victory of Bahram II over the rebels, in which the king sits on the throne in the center while on his right side stand the Iranian commanders and soldiers with respect and the rebels and captivates on the left. They are brought by the Iranian soldiers to the presence of the king.

The fifth relief located on the right side of the gorge is the most intact and complete relief among the others. It is about Shapur's victory over the Roman Empire.

The sixth relief depicts the ceremony of Shapur I receiving a royal ring from Ahura Mazda, as well as his victory in the war against the Romans. In this relief, both King and Ahura Mazda (the creator and highest deity of Zoroastrianism) are shown riding on horses and facing each other.

1000-year-old conical roof undergoes restoration

TEHRAN—The conical brick dome of Gonbad-e Qabus, a UNESCO-registered tower in northern Iran, is undergoing restoration, the director of the World Heritage site said on Monday.

"Currently, the restoration work is carried out on one tenth of the conical roof. And currently, we are out of the experimental stage and have started the restoration in a practical way and we are doing our best to proceed carefully," Abdolmajid Nurtaqani said.

"Although restoration mechanism is defined for the conical roof, we do not know what is behind the surface. However, the most damage may be seen in the cracks of the western and southwestern sections," the official said.

"It should not be forgotten that currently our studies are about the dome level bricks and we don't know what is going on underneath. We need to open the bricks and then we can talk about what to apply."

"Now we are amending worn bricks of the roof, and the scaffolding will remain until the repairs are finished. Due to the fact that there has been no rain, the humidity conditions of the tower are under control."

"Our whole concern is to be able to have a mechanism that has the fewest errors, so we are trying to prepare a comprehensive

restoration plan. What we do is that we monitor every action we take to see if that action has any destructive effects on the building or not," the official stated.

Considering that studies on materials such as bricks, mortar and construction methods are over, the restoration team has detected less than 100 broken and destroyed bricks. It has been detected that there are about five thousand bricks that cover the surface, he explained.

Experts say that growing plants on the tower is not a new issue and is witnessed in all brick buildings across the country, especially in northern provinces, due to their climatic conditions.

"It should not be forgotten that the surface of the conical roof is about 500 square meters and a plant seed may be brought back to the roof through bird droppings. It is extremely difficult to reduce the growth of plants on the roof to zero. But it can be controlled and minimized."

Located in Golestan province, the monument is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of the early Islamic-era architecture.

Visible from great distances in the surrounding lowlands near the ancient Ziyarid capital, Jorjan, the 53-meter high Gonbad-e Qabus dominates a modern town of the same name laid out around its base in the early 20th century.

Its hollow, cylindrical shaft of unglazed fired brick tapers up from an intricate geometric plan in the form of a ten-pointed star to a conical roof. Two encircling kufic inscriptions commemorate Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler and literati as its founder in 1006 CE.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the monument bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The structure capped by an eye-catching conical roof boasts intricate geometric principles and patterns which embellish parts of its load-bearing brickwork.

Efforts underway to bring ancient windmill back to life

TEHRAN—A team of cultural heritage experts has begun work to fully restore the ruins of an ancient windmill located in the Hamun region of Sistan-Baluchestan province, southeast Iran.

Worn arches and damaged parts of the walls are being restored using original material, the provincial tourism chief Mojtaba Sa'adatian said on Sunday.

In addition, the team is to strengthen the foundation of the windmill and its bonding beams on the one hand, and to remove previous construction debris, on the other hand, the official explained.

Restoration of the windmill, which is one of the pioneers in the use of clean energy, is expected to be completed by October 22, Sa'adatian added.

A collection of ancient Iranian windmills (locally called Asbads) have been inscribed on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage properties.

Experts believe such primitive yet significant machines bear testimony to the human being's adaption to nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities. Iranian Asbads enjoy a smart technique to grind grains, a technique that goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran invent it in an attempt to adapt themselves to nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities.

According to the latest official data, a total of 374 Asbads have been identified so far mostly in the eastern wing of the country, but not all of them in faultless conditions.

The development of Asbads took place due to the scarcity of water resources and continuous 120-day winds, which annually sweep through the east and southeast of the Iranian plateau from late May to late September. Wood, mud, and brick were the main construction materials for the two-story windmills.

Britannica says the earliest known references to windmills are to a Persian millwright in 644 CE and windmills in Seistan [Sistan], Iran, in 915 CE.

According to the UN cultural body, Robert Forbes, a technology historian, stresses the point that the Islamic era windmill was the invention of Iranian. He writes: "this invention, which was initially an exclusive device for Iran and Afghanistan, turned into an important source of energy all over the Islamic territories in the 12th century, and not only it was used for the grinding of grains and operation of water pumps, but also the chopping of sugarcanes and other purposes.

Technically speaking, unlike European windmills, the Iranian design is powered by blades arrayed on a vertical axis in which the wind power is directly translated down without the need for any gears found on the horizontal-axis mills.

Quake inflicts $100,000 of damage to historical sites in Khoy

TEHRAN—The historical sites across the ancient city of Khoy have taken some 30 billion rials ($100,000) damages from the last week's medium-sized earthquake, a local tourism official has said.

The magnitude 5.6 earthquake that rattled the ancient city on Wednesday damaged some historical sites including the municipality's old building, Seyyed al-Shohada Mosque, Al-e Yaqub Tomb, and Ayatollahi and Kabiri mansions, Davud Farazi said on Monday.

Over the past few days and after the earthquake, groups of assessors and cultural heritage experts have been dispatched to the damaged areas to investigate possible damages, the official added.

Damaged monuments will be restored and revived as soon as possible, he noted.

The historical city is encircled by vast sunflower farms under the shadow of snow-capped towering mountains. It is also teeming with centuries-old mosques, churches, caravanserais, bathhouses, fortresses, and ramparts, each telling its own tales.

Khoy is also a destination for lovers of Persian literature, who come visit the mausoleum of Shams Tabrizi, a renowned Iranian poet, and mystic who lived between 1185 and 1248.

The economy of its surrounding regions is primarily based on agriculture; various fruits, grains, timber productions, and sunflowers. The latter is what Khoy is nicknamed for.

Situated near the ancient Silk Road in West Azarbaijan province, Khoy was enormously fortified in different eras of its history, most recently by a decree of Qajar rulers in the 18th and 19th centuries.

EMBASSY OF BRAZIL IN TEHRAN

Job offer

Temporary Administrative Officer for administrative work (9 months). Persian, English and Portuguese required. Resumes to be sent to administ.teera@itamaraty.gov.br by Mehr 28th, 1401 (October 20th, 2022). Further details on the job position at http://teera.itamaraty.gov.br.

Health minister attends Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation headed by Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has attended the 69th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, being held in Cairo, Egypt on October 10-13.

This summit includes three sections of a pre-summit, specialized section, and side meetings where important health issues at the level of regional countries are discussed in the form of documents, and the output of these documents are provided in the form of resolutions, road maps, approved measures and action plans for policy-making and planning at national levels.

On Tuesday, Einollahi will give a speech and discuss the important health issues of Iran and the region.

Also, in order to expand and deepen bilateral cooperation, he will meet some health ministers of the member countries.

Key technical health issues on the agenda include a global strategy on infection prevention and control, the Global Health for Peace Initiative, well-being and health promotion, advancing the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and a regional strategy for fostering digital health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2023–2027).

Health development

Earlier in September, Einoullahi said that Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy.

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

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

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

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

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

> Key technical health issues on the agenda include a global strategy on infection prevention and control.

40,000 solar panels to generate income for the underprivileged

TEHRAN – By the end of this year (March 21, 2023), 40,000 small-scale solar power plants will be installed for the underprivileged, Seyed Morteza Bakhtiari, head of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, has said.

A memorandum of understanding on the construction of 550,000 solar power plants has been signed between the Basij, the Ministry of Energy, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, and the Welfare Organization, he explained.

A total of 110,000 solar panels will be allocated to the underprivileged under the coverage of the Relief Foundation and the Welfare Organization over the next five years.

He went on to state that the share of Relief Foundation is to provide 40,000 solar power plants this year and the welfare organization's contribution is 30,000.

In this plan, the Ministry of Energy is committed to purchasing the electricity produced by the families for 20 years, he said, adding,

> The Ministry of Energy is committed to purchasing the electricity produced by the families for 20 years.

producing electrical energy from renewable sources and helping to increase the national GDP are other positive consequences of implementing this plan.

Solar-powered photovoltaic panels convert the sun's rays into electricity by exciting electrons in silicon cells using the photons of light from the sun, which is the cleanest, most reliable form of renewable energy, and can be used in several forms to help generate electricity along with income.

The budget bill for the current [Iranian calendar] year (started March 21) has allocated 400 trillion rials (nearly $1.3 billion) from the oil revenues to implement a housing plan for low-income families.

The construction of 90,000 housing units has been entrusted to the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation under the housing plan.

Iraq hesitates as Iran hastens to deal with SDS

From page 1 ▶ The two sides agreed that a delegation from Iran will visit Iraq on October 16 and an Iraqi delegation to visit Iran on October 19. However, Iraqi officials have yet to lay the groundwork for the first visit.

"To this end, we send a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and they forwarded the letter to the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad. But we have received no response yet," Ali-Mohammad Tahmasbi, head of the national working group for SDS mitigation, said.

It is uncertain whether the Iranian delegation can travel to Iraq on the specified date, he noted.

According to studies, eight large sand and dust storm hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries are affecting Iran.

Regional maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively.

Firstly, areas in Iraq that are highly important in terms of raising sand and dust storms will be identified in order to start operations, Tahmasbi pointed out.

"Of course, Iraq is not in a favorable situation. Both the administration and the parliament are undecided. So, we do not know their response."

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

In August, DOE chief Salajeqeh said to deal with sand and dust storms, positive measures have been taken inside the country.

A ten-year plan has been prepared to curb internal sources of sand and dust storms, he added.

Based on the plan, the relevant institutions are performing their tasks to curb SDS effects, he stated, adding that the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization should have the first role in the plan, and the Planning and Budget Organization should also stand by the work.

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

In the past four years, about €370 million has been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve.

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

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

HIGHLIGHT: Regional maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively.

IRANIAN LANGUAGES AND SCRIPTS

Part 10

Both Herodotus and the Assyrian sources mention Cimmerians (q.v.; Gimirri, Gimirrai) and Scyths (Ashkuzai, Ishkuzai) in Media or the Zagros during the reign of Cyaxares. In 679 B.C.E. the Cimmerians under their king Teushpa invaded Assyria but were defeated by Esarhaddon.

The king's name could conceivably be Iranian (e.g., *tawa-spa- "he whose power is swollen").

Aside from the Medes and the Persians, the only other presumably Iranian-speaking tribe mentioned in the Assyrian records and by Herodotus are the Scythians.

According to Herodotus, after being expelled from Asia, the Scythians probably crossed the Caucasus, and part of them may have remained in the area northwest of the Caucasus. The Scythians, then, defeated the Medes and remained masters of Asia for 28 years (1.104) until Cyaxares and the other Medes invited most of them to a banquet, got them drunk, and massacred them (1.106).

The Scythians, Herodotus tells us, ruled Media for 28 years; and, although the historicity of this "Scythian interregnum" is doubtful, the Scythians are mentioned in the Annals of Esarhaddon, who gave his daughter in marriage to one of their leaders, Bartatua, a name reminiscent of Herodotus's Protothyes, father of Madyes.

The Iranian form of the name is not obvious, but it could, conceivably, represent something like *brta-tuwa- "he who carries power". The Assyro-Babylonian name for the Scythians, Ashkuzai, Ishkuzai, and similar, also found its way into the Bible, where, in Genesis 10:2-3, we find listed Gomer and his sons, among whom was Ashkenaz, names that probably reflect that of the Cimmerians and the Scythians.

The kingdom of the Ashkenaz is listed together with the land of Minni, i.e., Mannea, and Ararat, i.e., Urartu. According to the annals of Esarhaddon, in the early 770s, the Scythians under their leader Ishpakai allied themselves with the Manneans, but were defeated.

The leader's name seems to be an Iranian name containing *spaka- which Herodotus informs us is the Median word for "dog" (1.110).

The Achaemenids. Darius himself tells us that his father was Persian, and his and his ancestors' names are clearly Iranian names in the Avestan tradition: great-grandfather ariyaramna, Ariaramnes, "who has the force of a male" (camel, etc.); vishtaspa, Hystaspes, "who lets the horse run freely" (ibid., II, p. 29); and darayavahu, Darius (q.v.), "who upholds good [things/thought]"; cf. Yasna 31.7 ya daraiiat vahishtam mano "by which he upholds best thought" (ibid., pp. 18-19).

It may be noted that the names Chishpish, Kurush (Kurash), and Kambujiya, the great-grandfather, the grandfather, and the father of Cyrus the Great, respectively, have no obvious Iranian interpretations, and could possibly be Elamite names adopted by these rulers of Anshan, an Elamite territory (see also CYRUS and Waters, 2004).

Documentation

Iranian languages are known from roughly three periods, commonly termed Old, Middle, and New (Modern). Historically, this division corresponds roughly to (1) the pre-Achaemenid and Achaemenid period (down to 400-300 B.C.E.), (2) the period down to the Arab invasion of Iran and the spread of Islam (7th century C.E. in the west to 11th-12th centuries in the east), and (3) the Islamic period.

Old Iranian includes (from west to east) several varieties of Scythian, Median, Old Persian, Old and Young Avestan (q.v.), and the non-attested ancestors of most Middle and Modern Iranian languages.

Middle Iranian includes Alanic, Middle Persian (Pahlavi), Parthian, Bactrian (q.v.), Chorasmian (q.v.), Sogdian, Khotanese, and Tumshuqese.

New or Modern Iranian includes literary languages such as Persian (Farsi, Tajiki, Dari) and Pashto, as well as Ossetic, Kurdish, and Baluchi (Balochi), in addition to numerous mostly non-literary dialects.

Only the official languages Old, Middle, and New Persian represent three stages of one and the same language, whereas close genetic relationships are difficult to establish between other Middle and Modern Iranian languages. Modern Yagnobi belongs to the same dialect group as Sogdian, but is not a direct descendant; Bac-trian may be closely related to modern Yidga and Munji (Munjsni); and Wakhi (Waki) belongs with Khotanese.

Old Iranian languages

The languages spoken by the Scythian (OPers. Saka) tribes in the area of southern Russia and Central Asia are known from personal and place names. Among these languages were the ancestor languages of Alanic, Sogdian, etc. A few names of Scythian gods and heroes are mentioned in Herodotus's Histories (see Schmitt in CLI, pp. 92-94), some of which, at least, may be Iranian.

Avestan is the language of the Avesta (q.v.), the oldest Iranian religious texts. The Avesta is a collection of miscellaneous texts transmitted orally by specially trained priests until it was committed to writing sometime in the Sasanian era (perhaps early 7th cent. C.E.; see Kellens, 1998, especially pp. 482-83, with refs.).

Two chronological periods of Avestan are known, commonly referred to as Old and Young(er) Avestan. Old Avestan (OAv.) was probably spoken in the 2nd millennium B.C.E. in the area of the modern Central Asia republics and Young Avestan (YAv.) in the first half of the first millennium B.C.E. from Central Asia (Chorasmia, Kharazm) to the Helmand basin.

The Old Avestan texts comprise the Gatas (q.v.) and the Yasna Haptahaiti, as well as various fragments scattered throughout the Yasna (Pirart, 1992). The Young Avestan texts are the other Avestan texts (see the list of texts in EIr. III, pp. 37-40). The extant Avestan manuscripts go back to a prototype from ca. 1000 C.E., but the oldest preserved ones date only from the 13th and 14th centuries, most of them being much later still.

To be continued

Source: Iranica

ENGLISH IN USE

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Over 950 earthquakes rattle Iran in a month

TEHRAN– Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, recorded more than 950 earthquakes across the country over the past calendar month Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21).

Two earthquakes of more than 4 on the Richter scale have been recorded in the country by the National Seismological Center, the largest of which occurred on May 17, with a magnitude of 5.5 near Sankhast in northeastern North Khorasan province, which left 25 injured.

Statistically, 883 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 64 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, also, 8 quakes with magnitudes 4-5 have occurred.

Also, 3 earthquakes with magnitudes 5-6 shook the country.

ثبت بیش از ۹۵۰ زمین‌لرزه در اردیبهشت‌ماه

شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری وابسته به موسسه ژئوفیزیک دانشگاه تهران در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۰ تعداد ۹۵۸ زمین‌لرزه را ثبت کردند. این زمین‌لرزه‌ها در نواحی مختلف ایران و نواحی مرزی رخ‌داده و توسط شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری ثبت و تعیین محل شده‌اند. در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۰ تعداد ۱۱ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بیش از ۴.۰ در داخل کشور توسط مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری به ثبت رسیده است که بزرگ‌ترین آن‌ها در تاریخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۲۷ با بزرگی ۵/۵ حوالی سنخواست واقع در استان خراسان شمالی، رخ داده‌است.

از لحاظ آماری ۸۸۳ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی کوچکتر ۳، تعداد ۶۴ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۳و۴، تعداد ۸ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۴ و ۵ و تعداد ۳ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۵ و ۶ بوده‌است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 10

New cases	724
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,552,404
Total deaths	144,490
New hospitalized patients	123
Patients in critical condition	124
Total recovered patients	7,327,929
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,191,386
Doses of vaccine injected	154,864,963

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

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Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

OCTOBER 11, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able to subdue him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:53 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:08 (tomorrow)

Expressionist painter Habibollah Sadeqi subject of Iranian documentary

Frome Page **1** ▸ Sadeqi started painting at eight and then was admitted to the School of Fine Arts in Tehran. He studied painting in the Fine Art Faculty at the University of Tehran.

Continuing his academic education he obtained a Ph.D. in art at Tarbiat Modarres University.

He also carried out several research projects on different topics such as "An Analysis of Forms, Images and Colors in the Holy Quran" and "Images of Humans in the Mirror of Art after the Advent of Islam in Iran".

His works have been showcased in over 100 solo and group exhibitions in Iran and have received great critical acclaim.

One of his solo exhibits entitled "Piece of Paradise" was organized at Tehran's Sareban Gallery in January 2012.

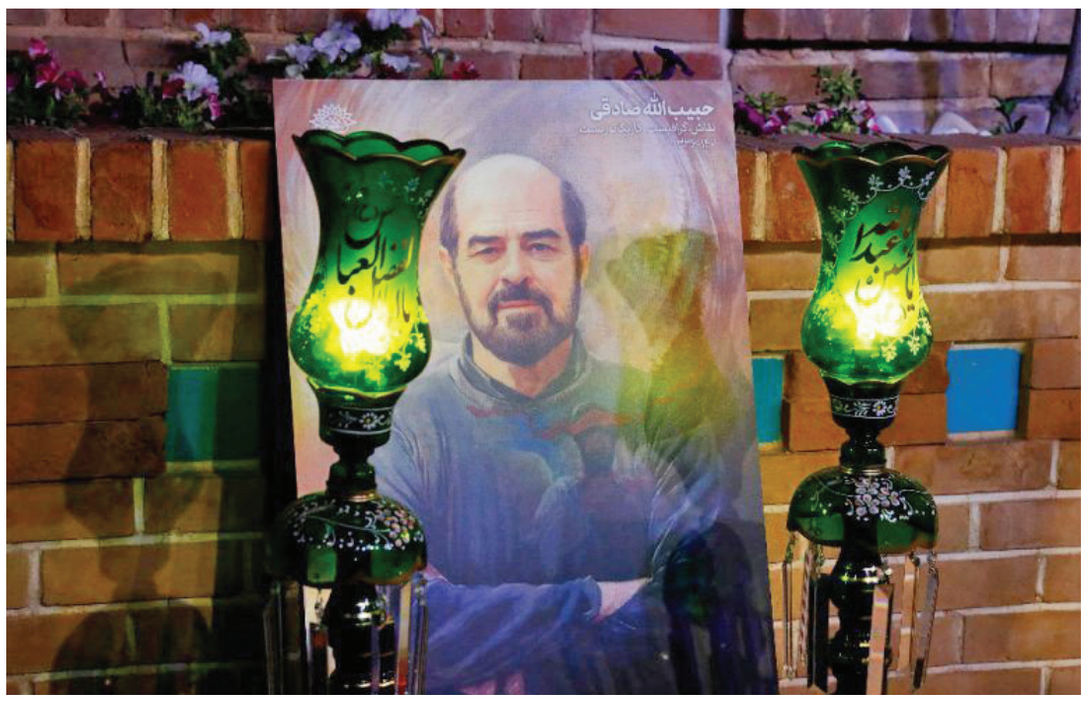
He said that the collection was the product of 15 years of study and 5 years of constant work.

"The beauty revealed in the artworks is inspired by the beauties hidden in every individual around me; it is as if their love and affection is lying on the canvas," he said in his statement for the exhibition.

"I have examined the relationship of people with the beauty of nature in this paradise, and I believe that, despite the complications and cruelty that exist in the world, people's behavior can make it beautiful," he said.

In his latest painting project, "A Requiem for the Manifestation of Simorgh", done at the Khial Gallery of the Saba Art and Cultural Institute, Sadeqi paid a tribute to General Qassem Soleimani.

He said that the project narrates the concepts derived from the resistance, bravery and martyrdom of the commander.



A picture of Habibollah Sadeqi is seen during a memorial for the artist at the Art Bureau in Tehran on August 1, 2022. (AB/Mohsen Seyyedi)

History of modern Persian novel

Part 10

Jafar Modarres Sadeqi (b. 1954), translator, editor, and also one of the few writers in this period using pre-Islamic motifs and myths, is another author under the influence of psychoanalysis, who also attempts to experiment with narrative techniques of the nouveaux romans.

Among his more significant novels, which share protagonists, are Gavkhuni (1983), Safar-e Kasra (Kasra's Journey, 1989), a love story heavily colored with ideology and politics, and especially Nakoja-abad (Nowhere Land, 1990), which tells the story of the protagonist's encounter with the deep layers of the nation's collective unconscious, visualized in archetypes and symbols from pre-Islamic times.

The turbulent final years of the Qajar era appear as a leitmotif in the fiction of this period. Amir Hasan Cheheltan (b. 1956) examined the history of the Constitutional Movement from a female perspective in his innovative work Talar-e A'ineh (The Hall of Mirrors, 1991), a novel in five sections which revolves around the life of two sisters and their politically active father. Cheheltan's latest work of fiction is Mehr Giah (The Mandrake, 1998).

Reza Julai (b. 1950) narrated the horrors of Persia's two disastrous wars with Russia in his inspiring novel, Shab-e Zolmani-e Yalda va Hadis-e Dordkeshan (The Longest Night of the Year and the Tale of the Tippler, 1990).

Julai has penned two other novels, Su-e Qasd be Zat-e Homayuni (An Attempt on His Majesty's Life, 1995), and Javdanagan (The Immortals, 1997).

The same period furnishes the historical background to Khane-ye Edrisiha (The House of the Edrisis, 1992) by Ghazaleh Alizadeh (1948-1995).

A novel in four sections, Khana-ye Edrisiha is based on the interplay of geometrical forms, the circle, the square, and the number four, with the story narrated from four different perspectives.

All three novelists endeavor to write in a language appropriate to the historical era in which their novels are set, with varying degrees of success.

Immediate contemporary history has also been treated by many novelists of the period. Special mention should be made of Simin Daneshvar's autobiographical novel, Jazire-ye Sargardani (The Island of Bewilderment, 1992), which depicts the heady days before the Revolution of 1979.

By creating a cast of politically confused and failure bound characters, the novel takes a critical stand toward underpinning ideologies of the revolution, particularly those advocated by Al-e Ahmad and his followers.

In Shams Langerudi's Reza bar Khak-e Puk (Parade on Hollow Ground, 1994), the narrator delves into the past to reflect on the uneasy relationship between tradition and modernity.

The novels of Fereshteh Sari (b. 1955) – Morvarid Khatun (1990), Jazire-ye Nili (The Cobalt Blue Island, 1991) and Aramgah-e Asheqan (The Lovers' Mausoleum, 1995) – and Shiva Arastui's U-ra ke Didam Ziba Shodam (I Became Beautiful When I Saw Him, 1993) are among many works of fiction of the period produced by women novelists that have won their authors immediate recognition.

The second half of this period has witnessed a broad reception for works of fiction written primarily for entertainment purposes.

These period pieces are mostly written by women. Notable among them is the immensely popular Bamdad-e Khomar (The Morning After, 1996) by Fattaneh Hajj Sayyed Javadi (b. 1942), which has achieved enormous popularity and has been reprinted many times.

It depicts the story of two lovers from different social classes and the ensuing tragic outcome of their misalliance. Like some early historical novels, it idealizes a vanishing gentry, but instead of castigating the emerging bourgeoisie as villains, it is the working and lower classes who are portrayed here as ruthlessly rapacious and self-centered.

Serialized detective or love stories, mostly written also by women, have attracted a much wider readership in the 1990s and are interesting both thematically and structurally inasmuch as they reflect the manner in which aesthetic and social phenomena generate and complement one another.

Serialized stories by Fahima Rahimi and Nasrin Sameni, reprinted several times with runs exceeding ten thousand copies, are more meaningful as social events than literary ones. They are mostly stories involving happy endings to forbidden romances.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded.

When was Annie Ernaux introduced to Persian readers?

By Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN – French author Annie Ernaux, winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature, was introduced to Iranian readers in 1989 by a Persian translation of her autobiographical narrative "A Man's Place" ("La Place").

Safieh Ruhi was the translator of the book published by Ketabsara just six years after the release of the original edition, which won her the Prix Renaudot in 1984.

The book focuses on her relationship with her father and her experiences growing up in a small town in France, and her subsequent process of moving into adulthood and away from her parents' place of origin.

"A Woman's Story", an autobiographical novel that describes the cruel realities of old age for Ernaux's mother who was once vibrant and independent, was her second book published in Persian by Chapakhsh in 1995. Farideh Taherpur was the translator of the book.

There were no Persian translations of Ernaux's books in Iran until 2013 when Hamshahri published her "The Other Girl" ("L'autre fille") and another Persian translation of her "A Man's Place" by Dina Kaviani.

"The Other Girl" was created based on a young editor's suggestion to Annie Ernaux to write a letter along the lines of the letter to Kafka's father with an idea of transgression.

Other Persian translations of "A Man's Place" and "The Other Girl" by Leila Ghafuri and Leila Kasai were released a year later.

Bahareh Moradi gave a Persian rendition of "Shame" by Ernaux, whose works are mostly autobiographical. It was published by Ney in Persian in 2016.

Another Persian translation of the book by Samaneh Rudbar-Mohammadi came in 2019. It was published by Elmi-Farhangi.

The book is the probing story of the twelve-year-old girl who will become the author herself.

Her "Look at the Lights My Love" ("Regarde les lumières mon amour") and "The Years" ("Les Années") were published in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

A combination photo shows Annie Ernaux and several Persian editions of her books.

"The Years" was a Man Booker International shortlisted book. It is a cumulative history of one person and an entire nation ranging from 1940, when the writer is born, to 2006, when the book comes to fruition.

Last Thursday, Ernaux was announced as the winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature for "the courage and clinical acuity" in her books featuring personal memory and social inequality.

"Theatre in Revolution" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Theatre in Revolution: Russian Avant-Garde Stage Design, 1913-1935" by Nancy Van Norman Baer has been published in Persian.

Published by Qatreh, the book has been translated by Payam Forutan and Nastaran Baqeri.

The book was first published in 1991 by Thames & Hudson and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco with contributions from John E. Bowlt, Elizabeth Souritz, Mel Gordon, Valerii Gubin, Simon Karlinsky, Mikhail Kolesnikov, Georgii Kovalenko and several other scholars.

Theater has always occupied a central place in Russian artistic life, and in the early twentieth-century avant-garde painters began experimenting with the stage as a visual laboratory.

Front cover of the Persian edition of Nancy Van Norman Baer's book "Theatre in Revolution".

Artists such as Exter, Lissitzky, Malevich, Popova, Rodchenko, Stepanova and Tatlin revolutionized costume, set and poster design, bringing an imaginative vitality to the state that has rarely been equaled.

This lavishly illustrated book accompanies an exhibition organized by Nancy Van Norman Baer of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in collaboration with the internationally known Soviet scholar John E. Bowlt and the staff of the Bakhrushkin State Central Theatrical Museum in Moscow.

Works have been selected for their dazzling visual qualities and for the insight they provide into the turbulent history of Russian avant-garde theater in a changing cultural climate.

Nancy Van Norman Baer, a dancer and renowned curator of theater and dance at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, died of cancer in 1998.

She was also the author of "Bronislava Nijinska: A Dancer's Legacy" and "The Art of Enchantment: Diaghilev's Ballets Russes".

History of modern Persian short story

Part 1

Historically, the modern Persian short story has undergone three stages of development: a formative period, a period of consolidation and growth, and a period of diversity.

Formative period

The formative period was ushered in by Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh's collection Yaki Bud Yaki Nabud (1921; tr. H. Moayyad and P. Sprachman as Once Upon a Time, New York, 1985), and gained momentum with the early short stories of Sadeq Hedayat (1903-51).

Jamalzadeh (1895-1997) is usually considered as the first writer of modern short stories in Persian. His stories focus on plot and action rather than on mood or character development, and in that respect are reminiscent of the works of Guy de Maupassant and O. Henry.

A typical Jamalzadeh short story revolves around some entertaining episode and often has a surprise ending. It has the appeal of traditional Persian folk tales (qesseh), which are also plot-centered.

The stories from Yaki Bud Yaki Nabud, which served as a blue-print for his subsequent works, can be defined as anecdotal fiction.

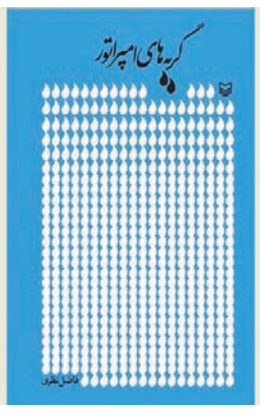
Pleasant, entertaining, and glowing with colorful expressions, though lacking in depth and universal significance, these narratives are in essence witty satires about the chaos reigning in the Persian society of the period, exposing to ridicule its backwardness, bigotry, and superstitions, and usually bearing an implied reformist or deductive message.

His characters are often simple, illiterate people – the common folk. The prose is packed, sometimes to excess, with colloquialisms and proverbial expressions, for he was among the first writers to abandon the ornate artificial style of traditional writing and emulate the speech-patterns of ordinary conversations and the language of the folktale.

This style had a deep influence on younger writers, making simple colloquial language the norm in modern Persian literature. However, the light-hearted tenor of his anecdotal fiction and the manner in which he constructed his plots found no following among younger writers and had little influence on the development of modern Persian short story.

To be continued.

Beautiful but bitter poems



A review of the book "The Emperor's Tears"

Fazel Nazari's poem collection "The Emperor's Cries" consists of thirty-eight social and romantic sonnets. The majority of the poems are in the Khurasani style of Persian poetry. Despite the presence of ancient words and phrases, the poet has been able to appeal to modern audiences that are unfamiliar with old poetry, as evidenced by the "Moon" sonnet.

All of Fazel's poetry is renowned for its bitterness, as well as its beautiful pictures and unique subjects.

Although we previously stated that Fazel's poetry is renowned for its bitterness and that the presence of hopelessness in his sonnets is more than hope, perhaps his bitterness will be lessened if we consider some of his verses from the perspectives of despair in the world and hope for the world to come.

It's also important to note that Fazel's poetry has a good harmonic quality. The use of harmonic rhymes that complement the verse substance and the syllable placement make his poetry more enjoyable.