Straight Truth

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Report

The NATO-Russia nuclear exchange threat

The war of words is escalating between Russia and NATO over the use of nuclear weapons over the Ukraine conflict. Such war of words comes as nuclear weapons threaten the entire planet Earth.

When asked how the U.S.-led NATO military alliance would strike Russia with the use of nuclear armed weapons, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters, "We will not go into exactly how we will respond, but of course this will fundamentally change the nature of the conflict. It will mean that a very important line has been crossed."

"We have monitored Russian nuclear forces for decades and of course we will continue to monitor them very closely and we will stay vigilant" Stoltenberg said.

Stoltenberg's remarks came after a meeting of NATO's secretive nuclear planning group, which was held among the alliance's defense ministers in Brussels.

This is while NATO is set to hold a nuclear armed exercise, dubbed "Steadfast Noon" on Monday, with dozens of warplanes that can drop nuclear bombs. They are set to take part in training flights over Belgium, the North Sea and Britain to practice the use of U.S. nuclear bombs based in Europe.

"It's an exercise to ensure that our nuclear deterrent remains safe, secure and effective," the NATO chief said.

Belgium is hosting the drills that will involve 14 countries and up to 60 warplanes, including U.S. B-52 long-range nuclear bombers that will fly in from Minot Air Base in North Dakota, a NATO statement said.

The fighter jets from allied nations, such as Belgium and Germany, can carry B61 nuclear bombs provided by the United States. They will be escorted by other warplanes along with refueling aircraft and spy planes. Three of NATO's 30 allies have nuclear weapons - the U.S., the UK and France. Page 5

Photos anti-Iran media don't like to be aired

The Iranian police have come under the toughest media pressure in recent years. Such a pressure has been primarily intended to present a violent image of security forces, who protect citizens from harms. In the recent riots a number of security forces, who were showing self-restraint, were either martyred or injured by hooligans.

Amid these comprehensive media war which are intended to distort the reality, attention-grabbing photos and videos have surfaced that depict the special security forces' kind behavior toward children. Such photos and films are never broadcast by anti-Iran media outlets as they are working hard to inflame the world public opinion against Iran.

The photos above show two pupils in Sistan-Balouchestan (R) are hesitantly approaching special security forces to see their combat uniform and arms and they are welcomed. Also, in Tehran a little child, who seems to have been frightened by seeing security forces, goes toward security forces along with his father and asks them to allow him to wear their combat helmet.

Iran's current account balance to rise nearly $21b in 2022: IMF

TEHRAN – International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest estimates of the world's macroeconomic indicators, has seen Iran's current account balance increase by $20.886 billion in 2022.

Based on the IMF data, Iran's account balance reached $32.031 billion in 2022 from $11.145 billion in the previous year.

According to the fund, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on purchasing power parity reached $1.6 trillion in 2022, indicating an increase of $150 billion from $1.45 trillion in 2021.

The IMF put the Islamic Republic's GDP per capita at $18,660 in 2022, increasing $1,580 from 2021 in which the figure stood at $17,080. Page 4

Iran says not surprised by Biden's interventionist remarks

TEHRAN — Responding to the interventionist remarks made by U.S. President Joe Biden about the recent developments unfolding in Iran, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has said that Tehran is not surprised by meddlesome remarks of the U.S. politicians.

Writing on his Instagram page on Sunday, Nasser Kanaani said, "Since the beginning of the recent developments in Iran, yesterday, U.S. President Joe Biden supported the disturbances in Iran for the umpteenth time through interventionist statements."

"Because he has neither trusted advisers nor a good memory, I remind him that Iran was too strong and stable to surrender to your cruel sanctions and absurd threats," the diplomat continued.

He then noted that even now, Iran is too proud to be "swayed by the interventions and exclamations of a politician tired of years of fruitless action against Iran."

Kanani emphasized, "Neither Biden's statements nor America's interventionism will ever surprise us, because intervention, aggression and killing are the true nature of the American system, but we are historical people and we are deeply rooted in history. From the (American-led) coup in August 1953 until today, the anti-Iranian policies of the American government have been well recorded in our minds. And of course, the history, as well as all over the world testify that the wound of America's crime and violence is on the world's body." Page 2

IRNA/ Marzieh Soleymani

Iran celebrates 15th National Paralympic Day

TEHRAN – Iran celebrated the 15th National Paralympic Day in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Sunday.

The Day was celebrated in Tehran in 2003 for the first time and Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) has marked the event every year since then. Page 3

Report

Annual food waste at 35m tons in Iran

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Iran is among the world's countries producing the highest amount of food waste, estimated at 35 million tons, worth $15 billion.

World Food Day is observed annually on October 16 to highlight the millions of people worldwide who cannot afford a healthy diet and the need for regular access to nutritious food. The theme for 2022 is "Leave NO ONE behind".

World Food Day 2022 is being marked in a year with multiple global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, climate change, rising prices, and international tensions. All of this is affecting global food security.

It should be noted that food, like air and water, is one of the most basic needs of humans and all living creatures, Page 7

Iranian academics, European fellows to look at ways of preserving Persian qanats

TEHRAN—A panel of experts and academics from the University of Tehran and the University of Montpellier will be exploring ways to help preserve the millennia-old Persian qanat system.

A project aimed to safeguard Persian qanats will be carried out with the cooperation of an international team from Iran (University of Tehran), France (University of Montpellier), as well as researchers from Denmark (University of Copenhagen), IRNA quoted an official from the University of Tehran as saying on Saturday.

The UNESCO-registered qanat system is a magnificent example of a technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in the history of human occupation of arid and semi-arid regions. Those underground tunnel systems bring infiltrated groundwater, surface water, or spring water to the Earth's surface using only gravitational force.

The experts will investigate the effects of human activities and climate change on the quantity and quality of water in Persian qanats, and provide solutions to protect these water transmission structures, which date some three thousand years, the official said.

"In addition, the experts will evaluate the condition of Persian aqueducts in the last two decades in terms of water quantity and quality."

Changes in land use, the sharp drop in underground water tables, and the lack of proper governance in the field of water resources are among the elements to be taken into account, the official added. Page 6

Tehran's Evin prison returns to normal after fire incident

TEHRAN- After a big fire broke out in one of the prison's workshops early on Sunday, the Iranian Judiciary said circumstances at Tehran's Evin prison are "totally normal," and the facility's regular operations are continuing as usual.

According to Iran's official news agency IRNA, the fire broke out at one of the prison's tailoring workshops in light of fights between a number of detainees convicted of financial offences and theft.

The Judiciary's media center reported that shortly after the conflict and the fire at the workshop, the prison's security guards began taking control of the scuffles and the fire station located inside the prison immediately began the fire extinguishing operation, and the fire has been contained and put out.

Based on the other sources, the police force aided the prison's security guards by immediately restoring order in the prison.

"Last night and following the fire at Evin prison, it was instantly feasible for the convicts to contact their families, and this scenario persisted until the morning. The detainees had phoned their families to reassure them of their safety," the Judiciary's media office said.

Furthermore, it is noted that the incident left 61 persons injured while 4 detainees succumbed to injuries as a result of smoke inhalation.

Anti-Iran media outlets, which are backed by some foreign states, quickly linked the fire in the prison to protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, an Iranian lady of Kurdish heritage who fainted at a police station following her detention last month and died days later in hospital. Page 2

Iranian children's series Golden Books return to stores after 58 years

TEHRAN – Golden Books, a series published in Iran for children 58 years ago, have returned to bookstores across the country to delight new generations.

The Amir Kabir Publishing Company first published the collection comprising about 80 great classics of the world's literature with front covers in gold.

The streamlined stories attracted Iranian children at that time and even appealed to adults.

Now, a leading Iranian publisher led by the translator Mohammadreza Jafari, has recently published 16 books of the series, including "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson, "The Prince and the Pauper" by Mark Twain, "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville and the fairy tales "Snow-White and Rose-Red" and "The Brave Little Tailor".

In a press release published by the publisher, Jafari said that like Iranian adult readers, he is also interested in reading children's books. Page 8

Iran says not surprised by Biden's interventionist remarks

from page 1 ▶ The diplomat went on to note that the U.S. has grown accustomed to misusing opportunities.

"Your habit is to catch fish from muddy waters (a Persian idiom that is defined as opportunism). But remember, this is Iran. The land of proud men and women. In our home, we talk to each other, we work together, and together, we will try to heal Iran's big and small wounds. Together, we will stand for Iran's independence, and of course, another failure will be added to the pile of your failures," the spokesman concluded.

Tehran's Evin prison returns to normal after fire incident

Four dies of smoke inhalation

from page 1 ▶ Iranians staged protests in certain cities but some extremist groups incited violence against security personnel, spreading chaos and torching public buildings.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi requested a comprehensive probe into the situation as soon as Amini tragically died.

According to an official investigation that was released on October 7, her death was brought on by a disease rather than suspected blows to the skull or other crucial bodily parts.

Heads of government branches meet

TEHRAN – The heads of the three branches of the Iranian government held a meeting hosted by President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi.

The development of the interactions of the three branches and the synergy of all elements of the governance system in order to overcome the existing problems and progress of the country was the most important agenda of the meeting of the heads of the three branches, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

The meeting was attended by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Judiciary chief Mohsen Ejei.

In the Saturday meeting of the heads of the three branches, which was hosted by Ayatollah Raisi, they discussed the process of developing the seventh development plan by the government, and the President informed the completion of this plan in the near future and its delivery to the Islamic Consultative Assembly at the appointed time.

In this meeting, the President also described his trip to Kazakhstan and participating in the 6th CICA Summit, and pointed out the great potential of economic cooperation and the fields of interaction with Asian countries and announced the government's efforts to develop relations in this area

At the end of the meeting, the heads of the three branches emphasized the need for quick and accurate handling of the cases of recent riots.

Top commander says Iran adamant in attacks on terrorists in northern Iraq

'Islamic Republic continues to keep U.S. bases in Iraq under surveillance'

TEHRAN – A top Iranian military official on Saturday vowed that the Islamic Republic would continue its defensive operations against the U.S.- and Israeli-backed separatist terror organizations hiding out in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, close to Iran's northwestern borders.

Since the success of Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, the separatists, who are "backed by the U.S. and other enemies," have been operating in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, according to Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Tasnim reported.

He went on to say that "today, there are 1200 military camps in northern Iraq" with "3000 armed terrorists operating against us," adding that "during the last several years, however, their bases have transformed into a complex acting against our national security with American help."

The top commander asserted that on multiple occasions, the Israeli regime would directly choose and train a few of these terrorists before sending them across the border to engage in terrorism and other disruptive actions.

"They were being used as terrorists for hire," Bagheri said, saying that "in effect, these terrorist strongholds were Zionists bases," and one of such bases in Erbil recently came under attack by the Aerospace Division of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

He also noted that Iran has repeatedly warned Iraqi Kurdistan's local authorities that it "will not tolerate the presence and bomb-making and military activities" of terrorist groups along its borders.

Iran "will continue these operations and even bigger ones as long as it takes" to flush out and disarm the terrorists, the military chief emphasized.

General Bagheri said that Tehran has repeatedly requested the Kurdish authorities to disarm or wipe out the terrorist organizations, and when they failed to follow through on their commitments, Iran was forced to combat the groups out of self-defense.

The locations of the terrorist organizations were most recently struck by the IRGC earlier this month.

Earlier in May, the IRGC attacked and destroyed the bases of the terrorist organizations active in Erbil.

The IRGC launched an assault in northern Iraq in September of last year as well, demolishing four foreign-backed terrorist organization strongholds there.

> There are 1200 military camps in northern Iraq with 3000 armed terrorists operating against Iran, military chief Mohammad Bagheri says.

In other statements, the top Iranian commander indicated that the Islamic Republic continues to keep U.S. bases in Iraq "under surveillance."

Bagheri reaffirmed, citing a recent assertion by American officials, that "we know where the American bases are situated across Iraq, as well as the number of forces in them and the nature of their actions."

Then he issued a warning, stating that "as of right now, if the Americans take any action against our drones, we will undoubtedly take responsive measures, and we reserve the right to respond to their recent action."

Bagheri also stressed that Tehran has cautioned its neighbors that "should any action be taken against our national security in any American bases in neighboring countries, Iran would surely retaliate against the headquarters in question."

Amir Abdollahian calls on Iraq's Kurdistan to combat terrorist groups

TEHRAN- The Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government must take full responsibility for battling terrorist and apartheid organizations operating in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

In a meeting with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji on Saturday in Tehran, Amir-Abdollahian stated, "Given good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, we do not expect the territory of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region to be a place for terrorist acts and threats against Iran."

Iran has always backed a prosperous Iraqi government and country, as well as a developed, free, and independent Iraq, he said.

The top diplomat went on to add that "Iran, however, will not tolerate the continuation of the armed terrorists' presence in the Kurdistan Region and their moves against Iran's security."

Amir Abdollahian pointed out that Tehran and Baghdad have expanding strategic ties in all areas and emphasized the significance of strengthening bilateral security cooperation, particularly the fight against armed terrorists operating in Iraq's Kurdistan.

The foreign minister added, "We see the security of Iraq as the security of Iran."

For his part, al-Araji said the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government will unquestionably respond to any attempt to undermine Iran's security.

Al-Araji headed a high-ranking security delegation to Iran.

Based on the Iraqi constitution, no person or group is permitted to take any action that compromises the neighbors' security.

Recent military operations by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) against anti-Iranian terrorist sites in Iraq's Kurdistan region were discovered to have contributed to violent riots across Iran.

During a phone chat with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein last week, the Iranian foreign minister also stated that the Islamic Republic will not put up with more action against itself by terrorist organizations headquartered in the Arab nation.

"We will not tolerate the continuation of aggression and terrorist acts by groups that have taken refuge in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and targeted Iran's national security," Amir Abdollahian underscored.

"Foreign military in Caucasus is shared worry"

Also, during a phone conversation with his Azeri counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov late on Saturday, Amir Abdollahian examined the most crucial bilateral, regional, and global concerns.

"Amir Abdollahian says presence of foreign military in Caucasus is shared worry among regional governments," he pointed out.

Iran's foreign minister also described the presence of foreign forces in the Caucasus as a source of concern for the governments in the region, underling Iran's opposition to the stationing of any foreign military there.

He praised the recent summit between the presidents of Iran and Azerbaijan on the sidelines of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia's 6th Summit (CICA) in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

He emphasized the need to uphold other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, namely those of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and defined this as Iran's ongoing policy in reference to recent events in the Caucasus.

For his part, Bayramov praised bilateral relations. He also supported Iran's position on this issue and expressed his objection to the deployment of Western military in the region.

Foreign agents played key role in recent riots: MP

TEHRAN — A senior legislator believes that based on the reports provided by the Iranian intelligence agencies, foreign agents played a key role in the recent riots in Iran.

"The reports conducted by the intelligence and security agencies on the recent riots indicates that foreign agents played a key role in planning to cause the riots," Abbas Moqtadaei, the deputy head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, said in an interview with IRNA published on Sunday.

Moqtadaei added, "According to these reports, the recent unrests were not caused by a spontaneous and endogenous approach of the people, but the opponents of the Islamic Republic used the death of the late Mahsa Amini as an excuse. Foreign espionage was used to cause chaos in the country by inciting people's feelings."

Referring to the briefing presented by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in the parliamentary committee, the representative of the people of Isfahan underlined that as per the foreign minister's report, even Iranian embassies and missions abroad were attacked by some NGOs and mercenaries a few hours after the riots began inside the country.

These elements were found to be in direct contact with the security services of foreign countries, he added.

"Also, according to the report of the interior minister and the intelligence minister to the (parliamentary) committee, the ringleaders of the recent riots admitted after their arrest that they received money from some Western countries, America and the Zionist regime to fuel the riots."

The protests that erupted in certain Iranian cities over the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini immediately turned violent as some elements used the death as a pretext to vent their anger against the Islamic Republic system.

Amini, a 22-year-old girl from the Kurdish city of Saqez, was arrested by morality police in Tehran on September 13 to be trained on dress code. Videos showed that she fainted while in police custody. However, she died in hospital three days later. Rumors broke out that she had died because of a fracture in her head. However, a thorough forensic examination proved the opposite.

The Forensic Medicine released the impatiently awaited report about the death of Mahsa Amini on Friday in which it said she suffered no damage to her head and other vital organs.

Based on the medical documents, a CT scan of her brain and lungs, examination of the corpse, pathology and necropsy, it was revealed that the Amini death was not related to a blow to head or other vital organs, it said.

'Massive plan engineered by the enemy'

The MP went on to note that recent issues show that a massive plan was engineered to cause a rebellion and make the country insecure, but due to the deep vigilance of the Iranian people and state organizations, the enemy failed to fulfill its wishes.

"The enemy is now facing the lack of public opinion's cooperation with the opponents of the Islamic Republic, because in the early days the opponents pretended that the people of Iran demanded many issues, but today the people of Iran separated their ranks from the opponents, and rioters."

The legislator stressed that even Europe was deceived by the Israeli regime and the United States to side with the rioters but all their efforts went awry.

"In practice, Europe, the U.S. and the Zionist regime realized their failure in creating and fomenting riots, and this failure of theirs strengthened the structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran more than ever and showed everyone that Iran isn't a place for a velvet coup," Moqtadaei reminded.

Stating that religious democracy has been institutionalized in Iran, the MP opined that people use elections for changes and will definitely reject any action outside the democratic system.

Of course, there is a need for changes in the country's plans by the authorities, he added, but everyone admits that Iran is so powerful that all-out mobilization of the Westerners against the Islamic Republic cannot create a crack in the strength of the nation.

"The coordination of the people, government, security, military and law enforcement institutions in the recent riots that took place at the highest level saved the country from the crisis that foreigners were trying to create for Islamic Iran," the senior legislator pointed out.

Iran has come under unprecedented propaganda war for its handling of the riots despite the fact that officials in Tehran have been insisting that the country is dealing with vandalism and those who make deadly attacks on security forces.

Persian language TV channels, including Iran International and Manoto, have been spreading lies about the Amini death and inflaming the riots.

American and certain Western European officials have also used the death to intervene in Iran's internal affairs and accused Iran of suppressing the protestors.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Sunday said Tehran is not surprised by meddlesome remarks of the U.S. politicians.

Writing on his Instagram page, Nasser Kanaani said, "Since the beginning of the recent developments in Iran, yesterday (Saturday), U.S. President Joe Biden supported the disturbances in Iran for the umpteenth time through interventionist statements."

Kanaani said Iran is too proud to be "swayed by the interventions and exclamations of a politician tired of years of fruitless action against Iran."

The diplomat went on to note that the U.S. has grown accustomed to misusing opportunities.

Also, in a telephone conversation late on Friday, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian told European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell that Iran is not a "land for velvet or colorful coups" and called Iran "anchorage of durable stability in the region."

Amir Abdollahian also said that Iran is "fully backed by its people and enjoys effective democracy."

"The death of the late Mahsa Amini is painful for all of us," the Iranian foreign minister told Borrell. However, he pointed out that this issue is just regarded as a pretext for intervention by some Western authorities in Iran's internal affairs.

The minister insisted that that peaceful protests and demands are different from riots.

"Peaceful demands are different from riots, murders, arson, and terrorist operations," Amir Abdollahian remarked.

Range of missile defense system upgraded to 300 km

TEHRAN – The range of domestically made missile defense system Bavar-373 has been upgraded to 300 kilometers, Tasnim quoted a senior military commander as saying on Sunday.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard, commander of the Air Defense Force of the Army, said the first version of Bavar-373 missile was 200 kilometers, however it has been upgraded in proportion to threats.

Speaking at a military academy in Tehran, Sabahifard said the Iranian military has tested the missile system at a range of 300 kilometers.

Iran unveiled Bavar-373 in August 2019. The long-range air defense system is capable of detecting up to 100 targets, tracking 60 of them, and engage with six concurrently.

Iran rejects Israel 'lies' at UN

TEHRAN – The Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York has responded to allegations and "lies" propagated by Israel the UN.

The Iranian mission rejected in a statement "the blatant lies and baseless allegations made by the representative of the apartheid regime of Israel against my country."

The statement said, "In yet another desperate endeavor, the representative of the Israeli regime has attempted to conceal the regime's destabilizing, malicious and terrorist activities in the region. Such activities include covert operations, subversive and disruptive measures against Iran's peaceful nuclear program, as well as the cowardly and abhorrent assassination of innocent Iranian citizens and scientists to further its sinister objectives in the region."

It added, "It is ironic that this terrorist regime, which has a deplorable track record of developing, producing and stockpiling various types of weapons of mass destruction, has maliciously accused Iran of violating Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), despite the fact that it has repeatedly committed flagrant and systematic violations of this

resolution over the course of several years. The Israeli regime has used every opportunity to threaten and dismantle the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as well as undermine the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) by the States Members of the United Nations. As a result, Israel's allegations regarding Iran are completely absurd, irrelevant and baseless."

The statement continued, "We believe that the international community must compel the Israeli regime to cease all of its destabilizing and adventuristic activities in the region. The Israeli regime has threatened the regional countries with nuclear annihilation and still continues its threats to use force against Iran, the most recent of which is a statement made by the Israeli National Security Adviser, Head of the Israeli National Security Council and Minister of Defense in which they confirmed responsibility for Israel's subversive operations and terrorist acts within Iranian territory."

It continued, "These statements constitute not only a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations but also a blatant admission of responsibility for Israel's terrorist and destructive operations against Iran. It also proves that the Israeli regime is responsible for such criminal as well as terrorist acts and must be held accountable in order to bear the consequences."

This is the second Iranian reply to Israeli allegations against Iran at the UN in a month. In early October, the Iranian mission said in a separate statement, "In fact, the dissemination of false and fabricated accusations against regional countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran, has long been a standard practice of Israel, with the exclusive purpose of concealing this regime's core crimes under international law, namely, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression."

It added, "Nevertheless, it is quite evident that no amount of disinformation and manufactured crises can cover up the criminal nature, as well as the expansionist and warmongering policies, that this regime has pursued over the past 70 years. Israel, in flagrant violation of international law and in total disregard for all relevant United Nations resolutions, continues its malicious acts by illegal and illegitimate acts in the occupied territories, as well as by assassinating scientists, by sabotage, and by cyber and kinetic attacks against other countries."

Iran is not negligent of the Caucasus

TEHRAN – Despite grappling with a wave of unrest, Iran remains vigilant toward developments in the South Caucasus region, and is ready to ensure its interests in the region.

Over the last few weeks, Iran has been dealing with an unprecedented wave of unrest that broke out over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young girl who died in police custody. The unrest came at a time when the South Caucasus region has become a flashpoint of sporadic skirmishes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On Sunday, the Azerbaijani ministry of defense said Azerbaijani forces along the border with Armenia came under fire and took "adequate retaliatory measures."

Armenia denied it fired at Azerbaijani forces. "Units of the Armenian Armed Forces did not open fire in the direction of the Azerbaijani positions, and the daily dissemination of such misinformation by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan is nothing but an attempt to artificially create tension on the border," a spokesperson for the Armenian defense ministry said in a statement.

The reoccurrence of border tensions between Baku and Yerevan has long been a source of concern in Iran given Azerbaijan's overt plans to establish the so-called Zangezur corridor, which, if materialized, would cut Iran's land border with Armenia.

Iranian concerns over the international borders in the South Caucasus region has exacerbated since the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war. Since then, Iran has been warning that it will not accept any change in the borders in the region.

The recent unrest in Iran further exacerbated these concerns as Iran has been busy putting its own house in order. But a senior Iranian official assuaged concerns regarding the situation in the South Caucasus region.

Mohammad Jamshidi, the Iranian president's deputy chief of staff for political affairs, said unrest did not distract Iran from following developments in the region.

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi met with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the CICA Summit in Astana on Thursday.

"In this meeting, Ayatollah Raisi rejected any change in the historical borders, the geopolitics of the region, and the Iran-Armenia transit route. He said it will elicit a decisive response from Iran. Ayatollah Raisi also rejected European military presence in the region under any cover. He said internal issues won't distract us from the Iranian nation's strategic interests," Jamshidi said of the meeting on Twitter.

In the meeting, Ayatollah Raisi stated that the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia should be respected, according to a readout of the meeting put out by the Iranian presidency.

"From the point of view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, any change in the historical and geopolitical borders of the region and any change in the transit status of Iran and Armenia are rejected," President Raisi said.

Recalling that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to welcome the liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh, he added, "Iran is ready to use its great capacity to resolve the discords between Azerbaijan and Armenia."

The Azerbaijani president, in turn, presented a detailed report on regional developments and the latest status of multilateral negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Prague.

He also stressed adherence to and respect for the international borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, in a phone call with the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, exchanged views on the most important issues in bilateral, regional and international fields.

Amir Abdollahian referred to the depth of Iran-Azerbaijan relations and described the recent meeting between the presidents of the two countries on the fringes of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit in the Kazakh capital as important, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Referring to the recent developments in the Caucasus region, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries including the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, stressing that the approach is the permanent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Amir Abdollahian said the presence of foreign forces in the Caucasus is a common concern of the regional countries and emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to the deployment of any foreign forces in the region.

Parliament committee releases report on Mahsa Amini death

TEHRAN – The Iranian Parliament's Committee of Councils and Internal Affairs has released a report on the death of Mahsa Amini.

The report confirmed earlier statements that Amini was not subject to any kind of beating during her detention by the police, according to Tasnim.

The report also warned those who made hasty remarks about the death of Amini and played into the hands of rioters will be prosecuted.

"Those who made hasty remarks before the incident was clarified and played into the hands of the System's enemies and rioters will be prosecuted if they don't correct their positions," the report said.

Mahsa Amini died nearly a month ago after being apprehended by the police. Her death caused protests that turned violent. Iranian authorities have said that the death of Mahsa Amini had nothing to do with the police.

Earlier this month, 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 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

Iran celebrates 15th National Paralympic Day

Frome Page 1 ▸ The event plays an important role in discovering the new talents and became part of the national calendar in 2016 following a Presidential order.

The Paralympic Day brought thousands of people with impairments across the country together. President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Andrew Parsons also sent a video message, praising the Iranian Para athletes and wishing them all the best.

Majid Rashed, head of Asian Paralympic Committee, attended the celebration for the first time.

He was joined by Tarek Souei, the Chief Executive Officer of the Asian Paralympic Committee, in the ceremony.

The main goals of the NPC are to introduce the Paralympic Movement to Iranian society, contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, President of Iran's NPC, has said they want to register it as an International Day.

Three-time archery champion Zahra Nemati, three-time gold medalist shooter Sareh Javanmardi and two-time gold medal winner sitting volleyballer Morteza Mehrzad have participated in the National Paralympic Day over the past years. Late Siamand Rahman, as the most powerful powerlifter in the world, was also attending the celebration and it shows that how important the Day is.

Iran has progressed in Paralympic sports and turned into a powerhouse nation in the recent editions.

In total, Iran has achieved 60 golds, 48 silvers and 45 bronzes since making its Paralympic debut at Seoul 1988.

Dehdar takes silver at 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Reza Dehdar of Iran claimed a silver medal at the men's 102kg of the 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Saturday.

Dehdar won the silver with 170-202-372.

Qatari weightlifter Fares El Bakh won the gold with 171-215-386.

Uzbekistan's Sharofiddin Amriddinov won the bronze with 172-196-368.

Woman weightlifter Elham Hosseini won a gold medal on Friday in the 81kg and Masoud Chatraei claimed a bronze medal in the men's 89kg weight class on Thursday.

The 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships are being held in Manama, Bahrain from Oct. 6 to 16.

It is the 50th men's and 31st women's championship.

Ali Fatollahzadeh Named Esteghlal GM

Tasnim – Ali Fatollahzadeh was named the General Manager of the Iranian football club Esteghlal on Saturday.

He replaced Mostafa Ajorloo in the post.

Ajorloo had been appointed as Esteghlal GM last year as Ahmad Madadi's replacement.

Fatollahzadeh had previously worked as Esteghlal GM in the Tehran-based football club.

Esteghlal, headed by Ricardo Sa Pinto, sits second in the Iran Professional League.

Asian U18 Athletics Championships: Haft-Cheshmeh, Aqaei win double golds for Iran

Iran Daily - The third day of the Asian U18 Athletics Championships saw Iran's Mehdi Haft-Cheshmeh bag the men's hammer throw gold in Kuwait.

The Iranian registered 68.30m on his third attempt to finish above Indian Mohd Aman (67.03m) and host's Ali Alhendal (64.90m).

Haft-Cheshmeh's triumph came a day after sprinter Mohammad-Sajjad Aqaei had opened the gold account for Iran by winning the men's 400m final.

Aqaei clocked 48.37 seconds to win the ultimate prize on Friday, with Sri Lankan duo Jayathilake Salamuthu (48.56) and Rajapaksha Rajapa (48.70) finishing behind the Iranian.

Also on Friday, Iranians Sina Afshinfar, and Farid Qaranjik collected two silver medals.

Afshinfar scored 6,417 points to finish second to Uzbekistan's Nodir Norbaev, who scored 6,934pts, in the men's decathlon contest with Sajjad Ahmed al-Alkhazali of Saudi Arabia in third on 5,674pts.

Qaranjik, meanwhile, finished runner-up in the men's triple jump event with a best attempt of 14.35m.

Malaysian Ng Tak Sing won the gold with 14.62m, while Saudi athlete Bakheet Sami Mousa settled for the bronze with a 14.26m jump.

The opening day of the competitions had seen Arshia Mosadeqi also bag a silver for Iran with a second-best attempt of 5.00m in the pole vault contest.

Qatar's Seifeldin Mohamed Abdelsalam grabbed the gold with 5.10m, and Indian Kuldeep Kumar took the bronze with a 4.80m finish.

Melika Norouzi and Mahdis Minaeipour gave Iran a couple of medals in the girls' competitions.

Representing the country in the hammer throw final, Norouzi tallied 57.85m and settled for the silver, with Minaeipour finishing third with a successful 54.02m throw.

Taremi, best couple for Arsenal's Brazilian striker

TEHRAN - Arsenal Football Club are waiting for the opening of January transfer season to buy Porto's Iranian striker, Mehdi Taremi.

Arsenal's summer purchase, Gabriel Jesus, from Manchester City was quite a good choice, as in his first 11 games he has scored five goals and centered four goal passes.

Yet, according to sport analysts Arsenal are intending to buy also Porto's Iranian striker Taremi in January transfer season.

The 31-year-old striker will probably be in the frontline of the Iranian national team in 2022 Doha World Cup and pose the greatest threat against Britain, Iran's first competitor there.

Arsenal's Head Coach Michael Arta is trying hard to buy Taremi for his team as the best match for Jesus, Arsenal's other striker as an ideal couple.

He has played 296 games in clubs during his professional life, scored 148 goals and centered 77 goal passes.

Iran's current account balance to rise nearly $21b in 2022: IMF

from page 1 ▶ The fund, in its latest World Economic Outlook report titled "Countering the Cost-of-Living Crisis" published on October 11, predicted that Iran's economy will experience a positive growth of three percent in 2022, following its upward trend for the third consecutive year.

IMF anticipated that Iran's inflation rate will also improve in the current year.

The international body had put Iran's inflation rate in 2021 at 40.1 percent, adding that not only Iran's inflation rate will not increase in 2022 as compared to a year earlier, but it will hit 40 percent at large, showing a bit decline.

Therefore, the IMF expects Iran's economy to experience positive growth for the third year in a row in 2022 in spite of tough sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran.

Iranian economy experienced a 3.1 percent negative growth in 2019 following the U.S. maximum pressure policy imposed against Iran, IMF said, adding that Iran's economy moved out of recession in 2020 despite the global coronavirus pandemic.

Earlier this week, World Bank also predicted the Iranian economy to grow by 2.9 percent in 2022.

In its latest economic report on the MENA region, dubbed "A New State of Mind: Greater Transparency and Accountability in the Middle East and North Africa", the bank said that the Islamic Republic's Account Balance is also going to improve in 2022 reaching 3.8 percent of the GDP. The figure stood at 3.5 percent last year.

61 exemplary exporters to be honored on National Export's Day

TEHRAN - Ali Chagharvand, the planning director of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has said 61 exemplary exporters will be introduced and honored in the 26th National Export's Day ceremony, the ICCIMA portal reported.

ICCIMA is going to held the National Export's Day ceremony in collaboration with Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) on October 22.

The ceremony is going to be attended by high-ranking officials including President Ebrahim Raisi.

Alumina powder production up 2% in H1 on year

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

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 118,845 tons in the six-month period of this year, while the figure was 116,192 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEDPIX loses 6,600 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 6,613 points to 1.311 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.551 billion securities worth 26.612 trillion rials (about $91.7 million) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index dropped 6,046 points and the second market's index lost 9,666 points.

TEDPIX gained over 7,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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).

ISIRI calls for amending national standard structure

TEHRAN – The head of Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) has criticized the outdatedness of the country's standards structure and called for its revision, IRIB reported on Sunday.

"The historical neglect of the country's standard system is regrettable, and in this context, it is necessary to modify the structure of this organization to carry out new missions," Mehdi Eslampanah said in a seminar held on the occasion of National Standard Week.

Iran eyes entering Russia's medicine, medical equipment market

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has announced plans to enter Russia's medicine and medical equipment market, the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported on Saturday.

As reported, TPO, as the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's foreign affairs body, is preparing a comprehensive action plan for the facilitation of Iranian pharmaceutical companies' presence in Russia's medicine and medical equipment market.

Speaking in a seminar on the promotion of the export of medical and pharmaceutical equipment to Russia, which was held with the aim of making the necessary preparation for the participation of Iranian companies in the Moscow Health Week exhibition, TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak said: "Medical equipment is among the group of goods that the government has a special program for its promotion and exports."

"The government's approach is to do special programs for products that have a good market and our producers have the ability to compete with foreign products in the destination markets. Participation in specialized exhibitions is one of these programs," Peyman-Pak said.

Stating that participation in specialized exhibitions should be planned in advance and according to the goals, the official emphasized: "We saw an example of this planning at the Moscow Automobility Exhibition, which was a good achievement for our automobile and parts manufacturing industries."

He said according to statistics, Russian imports over $20 billion worth of medicine and medical equipment annually, adding: "With the withdrawal of western companies from this country due to sanctions, a suitable market has been opened for Iranian companies that can be used."

The TPO head also pointed to the organization's support for the export of medical equipment and said: "In this regard, solving financial exchange problems, opening a brokerage account between Iranian and Russian banks, providing financing for purchase credit, issuing guarantees and insurance policies, and discussing quick registration for medicines and medical equipment are being followed up by TPO in Russia."

Iran planning to launch car production line in Armenia

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak has said the country is planning to establish an automobile production line in Armenia with the aim of exporting to Eurasian markets, IRNA reported.

"A preliminary agreement has been reached for the construction of an Iranian car production line in Armenia, and based on this agreement, the justification plan is being prepared," Peyman-Pak said.

According to the official, in this regard an Iranian automaker and an investor from the Armenian side have expressed readiness and the Iranian Industry Ministry and Armenia's Economy Ministry are in charge of pursuing the plan.

During an Iran-Armenia business forum held in Tehran in mid-September by Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), the attendees underlined the significant position of Armenia as Iran's only land gateway for entering Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) markets.

Iran's commercial attaché in Yerevan Akbar Godari, Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hervik Yarijanian, and Head of Aras Free Zone Organization Majid Kiani were the key speakers at the mentioned business forum.

Speaking at the forum, Godari stressed Armenia's unique geopolitical situation among Iran's neighboring countries and said: "Armenia is the only EAEU member with which Iran shares land border, and considering the fact that the country's borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey are currently closed, Armenian market has a lot of potential for Iranian businessmen."

Stating that in the last two years, numerous Iranian company representatives and business delegations have visited Armenia, Godari said: "The market of this country has a big difference with some neighboring countries; in Armenia, products are imported from many countries all around the world, so, Iranian products have to compete with world-class products."

Elsewhere in the event, Yarijanian pointed to the positive relations between Iran and Armenia and stated: "In the last 30 years, the diplomatic relations between the two countries and given that Armenia shares Iran's only land border with the Eurasian Economic Union, the development of relations with this country provides enormous economic potential."

Also in early September, the TPO head hosted a meeting with Armenia's Deputy Economy Minister Narek Teryan in which the officials talked about a variety of areas for economic cooperation between the two countries.

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

Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee meeting to kick off in Russia on Oct. 29

TEHRAN- The 16th meeting of Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee will be held in Russia during October 29-November 1.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak will co-chair the meeting.

Under the joint economic committee meeting, 19 working groups have been defined, which include a diverse range of activities in the fields of energy, transportation, science and technology, etc.

Iran's Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Ahmad Asadzadeh is the Iranian chairman of the two countries' joint energy committee.

Iran and Russia have very high capacities in terms of oil and gas reserves and geopolitical position, and by working together they can create new equations in the field of international economy.

As two powerhouses in the region and the world, Iran and Russia have been interacting on various levels for long, however, the two countries' relations have taken a completely new form following Moscow's conflict with Ukraine.

Now, faced with sanctions, Moscow has become seriously inclined toward its old ally Iran in order to benefit from the valuable experiences of the Islamic Republic whose economy has adapted greatly to the sanction conditions, and also to use Iran's capacities as a major economic player in the region to expand its trade ties.

In this regard, over the past few months, Russia has been taking major steps toward establishing a whole new foreign policy, the cornerstone of which has been economic relations with the Islamic Republic. Senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations.

As the most significant event among the mentioned exchanges, Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran in mid-July to attend the 7th Summit of the Guarantor States of the Astana Process.

During his stay in Tehran, the Russian President met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Raisi and exchanged views on the recent development in the world and in the relations between the two countries.

Less than two months after Putin's visit, now a delegation comprising 100 representatives from 65 Russian companies visited Tehran last month to explore areas of cooperation with Iranian counterparts.

In the commission organized by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), Russian and Iranian businessmen and traders held B2B meetings at Spinas Palace Hotel in Tehran for three consecutive days in late September.

The outcomes of these meetings are expected to be hugely significant for the two sides' economic relations in the future.

Meanwhile, Iran and Russia have taken significant steps for removing the U.S. dollar from their bilateral trade, launching a settlement system to use their national currencies in economic exchanges.

> As two powerhouses in region, Iran and Russia have been interacting on various levels for long

Iran's Integrated Forex Market launched the Ruble/Rial currency pair in early July, following a visit of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Ali Saleh-Abadi to Moscow.

The new arrangement means the two countries can now settle trading debts in each other's currencies. The first trade took place on July 19, the day that Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrived in Iran for talks with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

As reported, the new monetary system could significantly reduce the two sides' demand for dollars. Bilateral trade between Iran and Russia stood at four billion dollars in 2021 but the two countries say they are hoping to ramp up bilateral trade to eight billion dollars in the short term.

The new trading arrangement allows them to avoid the use of dollars and, by doing so, also sidestep the impact of the U.S. sanctions.

On October 6, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin said that the development of relations between Iran and Russia is the best answer to illegal sanctions.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber on the sidelines of the Second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow.

The meeting was participated by high-ranking delegations from the two countries.

Referring to the friendly and good neighborly relations between the two countries, the Russian official said Moscow is interested in expanding and deepening cooperation with Tehran in all fields.

Reiterating that the expansion of relations between the two countries is the best answer to the illegal sanctions against Iran and Russia, the Russian official added: "We welcome the presence and activity of Iranian companies in Russia and the field of activity and cooperation is available for our partners in Russia."

Despite the sanctions, the companies of the two countries are cooperating, and Russian companies have taken good actions in the field of joint investment and cooperation in the energy sector and new oil and gas fields, Mishustin added.

Addressing the same meeting, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber said that speeding up the oil and gas contracts and establishing a joint free zone between Iran and Russia are being pursued seriously.

Iran and Russia have good and growing relations, and the will of the two countries to comprehensively strengthen relations is serious, the official stressed.

The NATO-Russia nuclear exchange threat

From page 1 ▶ President Vladimir Putin had previously said that he would resort to nuclear weapons if Russia's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty was threatened and warned that he "wasn't bluffing". The threat was also believed to be aimed at warning NATO against getting involved in the Ukraine conflict and target Russian territory.

He also ordered the country's ground units equipped with intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well as vessels from the Northern and Pacific Fleets, to be placed on high combat alert. He said the decision was linked to "aggressive statements" by U.S. and EU officials.

However, later the Russian Foreign Ministry clarified that Moscow is not threatening anyone with nukes, but is urging the U.S. not to interfere in the Ukraine conflict, which the Kremlin views as a matter of national security.

At a conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said Moscow had noticed "Washington's painful reaction" to Russia placing its nuclear arsenal on high combat alert in February.

"We explain that we do not threaten anyone with nuclear weapons," Ryabkov said, referring to Russia's military doctrine, which provides for the use of the nuclear arsenal in self-defense when there is an existential threat to the state.

At the same time, Ryabkov noted, Russia was warning the West that there are "risks" to its interference in Ukraine and it "strongly urges" Washington "to avoid a situation that could lead to a direct military clash with Russia." The Russian official also accused the U.S. of deliberately "lowering the nuclear threshold ".

Stoltenberg went on to say that "even any use of a smaller nuclear weapon [by Russia] will be a very serious thing, fundamentally changing the nature of the war in Ukraine, and of course that would have consequences."

Speaking to reporters at NATO headquarters, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said his country was monitoring any indications of a

change in Russia's nuclear posture that would suggest it may move ahead with a nuclear strike but acknowledged "we've not seen any indicators at this point that would lead us to believe that".

Speaking in the Kazakh capital Astana on Thursday, Putin warned that any clash with NATO troops would lead to a "global catastrophe".

Experts say the U.S. and its allies will not directly confront Russian forces. But rather leave that job to the Ukrainian army.

Washington is sending another batch of arms to Kiev as part of a new $725m package. That would bring the total U.S. military assistance since the conflict began in February to more than $17.5 billion.

In a statement, the U.S. Defense Department said the latest package includes high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARMs) and precision-guided artillery. The White House is using the Presidential Drawdown Authority which allows it to ship to Ukraine in the coming days.

It allows the Biden administration to send weapons without congressional approval. Separately, Ukraine is awaiting the delivery from the U.S. and Germany of sophisticated anti-aircraft systems this month according to the country's defense minister Oleksiy Reznikov. An IRIS-T air defense system that Ukraine recently received from Germany is "already in use", German defense ministry has revealed.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has said his Russian counterpart has never sought to deploy nuclear weapons in Ukraine. He categorically dismissed the notion that Moscow could resort to the nuclear option in the conflict with Kiev.

"The Russian leadership, including President Putin, has never set an objective of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine. There is no such need," he pointed out.

"The most important thing is to not back your opponent into a corner," he said, urging the West not to cross Russia's "red lines".

Lukashenko said Russia has other weapons powerful enough that it has no need to resort to nukes in Ukraine. "Russia possesses, and that I know for sure, the most modern types of weapons. There is no need for nuclear weapons," Lukashenko said, adding that nuclear war should not be discussed "under any circumstances."

"Even if one nation uses nuclear weapons, this would be the end of our planet. It will cause a chain reaction," he said, adding that the Kremlin understands that very well.

He also noted that those who use nuclear blackmail against Russia "should know that the wind rose can turn around."

The Kremlin has also repeatedly warned that an atomic war should never be fought. Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu has made it clear that Moscow is not considering a nuclear strike on Ukraine, given that there are no targets warranting such military measures.

The truth is that many Western leaders have made it no secret of their willingness to use nuclear weapons should their territory come under attack.

During the last race for the Prime Minister's post in the UK, Lizz Truss said she would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons. "I am ready to do it," said the new British leader. "I think it's an important responsibility of a prime minister. I am ready to do it," Truss said.

Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson repeated the same dangerous rhetoric when he was contending for the UK's new Prime Minister.

In fact, Johnson went one step further last year with his decision to increase the British nuclear stockpile by more than 40%, from 180 to 260 Trident submarine nuclear warheads. The ruling Conservative Party does have a longstanding love affair with starting new nuclear arms races.

That came at a time when much needed money could have been spent on the improving the country's national health service and investing in employment opportunities on the backdrop of the Covid-19 crisis.

U.S. President Joe Biden says, "I don't think there's any such thing as the ability to easily [use] a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon ... we have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis."

Touching on the nuclear tensions between Russia and NATO, European foreign policy chief Josep Borrel said, "It has to be clear that the people supporting Ukraine and the European Union and the member states, and the United States and NATO are not bluffing neither."

"And any nuclear attack against Ukraine will create an answer -- not a nuclear answer but such a powerful answer from the military side - that the Russian army will be annihilated"

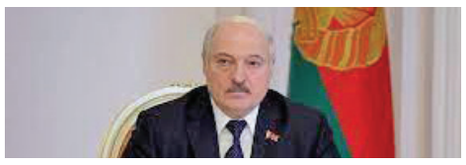
Of course, there has actually been a nuclear annihilation once before in history and it was the United States that committed it.

But there has never been a better opportunity for the international community to seriously get together and draw up plans to get rid of all weapons of mass destruction against humanity once and for all, especially nuclear weapons.

Solution to Ukraine conflict depends on US, UK: Lukashenko

The Ukraine conflict may be resolved within a week, and that depends on the United States and the United Kingdom, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said in an interview with NBC, excerpts of which were quoted by BelTA news agency on Saturday.

"It all depends on the US and the UK. If tomorrow you realize that we need to sit down at the negotiating table and find a solution, believe me, we will find a solution within a week," Lukashenko said.



White House "very disappointed" by Palestinian president's remarks to Putin

The White House is "deeply disappointed" Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told Russian President Vladimir Putin that he mistrusts the Biden administration, a spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council told Axios.

Why it matters: Since assuming office, the Biden administration has resumed sending hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian people that was cut during the Trump administration.

Driving the news: Abbas met Putin on the sidelines of an international summit in Kazakhstan and told him the Palestinians do not trust America and that the U.S. can't mediate on its own between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

"We don't trust it, we don't rely on it, and under no circumstances can we accept that America is the sole party in resolving a problem," Abbas said.

The Palestinian president then added he is "happy and satisfied" with Russia's support of the Palestinians.

"Russia stands by justice and international law and that is enough for us," he said.

Two U.S. sources briefed on the issue told Axios Biden administration officials were furious and made it clear to Abbas' advisers.

Since assuming office, the Biden administration has resumed sending hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian people that was cut during the Trump administration.

The Biden administration expects that by resuming the US aid to the Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority will follow the general policies of that country towards Russia, which has increased tensions between the two sides after the Ukraine war.

Abbas' remarks came a week after his de facto number two, Hussein al-Sheikh, was hosted at the White House by national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Al-Sheikh also met with the deputy secretary of state, Wendy Sherman, and several other U.S. officials.

It was the first official visit by a Palestinian official to Washington since December 2017, when the Palestinian president decided to boycott the White House after Trump announced he would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The tensions between the Biden administration and the Palestinian leadership are growing amid escalating violence in the occupied West Bank.

"We were deeply disappointed to hear President Abbas's remarks to President Putin. Russia does NOT stand for justice and international law, as evidenced by the latest vote at the UN General Assembly," a White House national security council spokesperson told Axios. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution this week to condemn Russia's annexations in Ukraine.

The National Security Council spokesperson said Putin is a "far cry" from the type of international partner needed to constructively address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"President Biden, in contrast, has demonstrated U.S. commitment for decades to seeking creative solutions and working toward the lasting peace needed to advance stability and prosperity throughout the Middle East," the spokesperson said.

Palestinian officials didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

WORLD HEADLINES

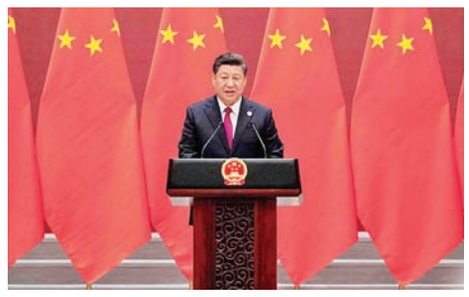
Biden has no plans to meet with Saudi Crown Prince at G20 summit

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that President Joe Biden would act "methodically" in re-evaluating the US relationship with Saudi Arabia, but options include changes to security assistance to the major oil producer.

Sullivan, speaking on CNN, said Biden had no plans to meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at a G20 leaders summit in November, and no changes were "imminent."

"And so the President isn't going act precipitously, he is going to act methodically, strategically and he's going to take his time to consult with members of both parties, and also to have an opportunity for Congress to return so that he can sit with them in person and work through the options," he added.

Chinese president vows to take control of Taiwan



China's President Xi Jinping on Sunday opened the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) in Beijing by pledging to take control of Taiwan and advocating the "one country, two systems" policy, according to the state-run media.

In a speech to nearly 2,300 party members at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, the Chinese president said: "Resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese, a matter that must be resolved by the Chinese."

"We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort, but we will never promise to renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary. This is directed solely at interference by outside forces and the few separatists seeking 'Taiwan independence' and their separatist activities; it is by no means targeted at our Taiwan compatriots," the state-run media quoted the president as saying.

"We have always shown respect and care for our Taiwan compatriots and worked to deliver benefits to them. We will continue to promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation across the Strait," Xi said.

"The policy of 'One Country, Two Systems' is a great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has proven to be the best institutional arrangement for ensuring sustained prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao after their return to the motherland."

"This policy must be adhered to over the long term," the president said.

The summit is held every five years where party delegates decide future policies and back new leadership roles.

"We will fully, faithfully, and resolutely implement the policy of 'One Country, Two Systems,' under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy. We will remain committed to law-based governance in Hong Kong and Macao," Xi said.

Biden: Truss plan a 'mistake' amid 'worldwide inflation'

President Joe Biden on Saturday called embattled British Prime Minister Liz Truss' abandoned tax cut plan a "mistake," and said he is worried that other nations' fiscal policies may hurt the U.S. amid "worldwide inflation."

Biden said it was "predictable" that the new prime minister on Friday was forced to walk back plans to aggressively cut taxes without identifying cost savings, after Truss' proposal caused turmoil in global financial markets. It marked an unusual criticism by a U.S. president of the domestic policy decisions of one of its closest allies.

"I wasn't the only one that thought it was a mistake," Biden said. "I disagree with the policy, but that's up to Great Britain."

Biden's comments came after weeks of White House officials declining to criticize Truss' plans, though they emphasized they were monitoring the economic fallout closely. He was speaking to reporters at an Oregon ice cream shop where he made an unannounced stop to promote the candidacy of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tina Kotek, as Democrats across the country face a tough political environment amid GOP criticism of their handling of the economy.

Biden said he was not concerned about the strength of the dollar — it set a new record against the British Pound in recent weeks — which benefits U.S. imports but makes the country's exports more expensive to the rest of the world.

The president said the U.S. economy "is strong as hell."

"I'm concerned about the rest of the world," he added. "The problem is the lack of economic growth and sound policy in other countries."

Biden said, "It's worldwide inflation, that's consequential."

Palestinian man shot by Israeli forces dies in occupied WB

A Palestinian man who was shot by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank on Saturday night has died of his wounds, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Ministry officials said on Sunday that three others were wounded in the Israeli firing. Palestinian Wafa news agency, quoting medical sources, identified the slain man as Mujahed Ahmad Daoud, a 31-year-old Palestinian from the town of Qarawet Bani Hassan.

Daoud was rushed to Istishari Hospital in Ramallah, where efforts to save his life failed.

The Israeli military claimed Palestinians had started "a violent riot" near Qarawet Bani Hassan on Saturday, and soldiers who had been operating there opened fire.

The incident follows months of tensions that have deepened since Israel began a crackdown in the West Bank in March.

Israeli forces have been carrying out near-daily raids in recent months, largely focused on the towns of Jenin and Nablus in the West Bank, where a new wave of Palestinian armed resistance is emerging. Since the beginning of the year, at least 160 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 51 Palestinians during Israel's three-day assault on Gaza in August, according to the Ministry of Health.

Tensions have also been high in occupied East Al-Quds after Zionist police forces locked down the Shuafat camp last week on the pretext of searching for a Palestinian suspected of killing a female Israeli soldier.

Hotel occupancy rate in Tehran plunges by 80%

TEHRAN—The occupancy rate of hotels in the Tehran province has plummeted by 80 percent, the head of the Tehran Hoteliers Association has said.

Due to a wave of unrest that engulfed the country in recent weeks, several hotel reservations across Tehran province have been canceled and the occupancy rate of Tehran hotels has tumbled by 80 percent, Mohammad Ali Farrokhmehr said on Sunday, Mehr reported.

The interruption of the Internet, as a means of tourism development, also caused several problems and issues for the hoteliers, he noted.

The government must pay hoteliers' loans and consider extending these loans for a longer period to resolve this crisis, he said.

Following the death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, in hospital after she was taken by morality police for violating social dress codes, Iran has witnessed incidents of street violence over the past few weeks.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

Tourism infrastructure needs to be developed in Persepolis

TEHRAN—Tourism infrastructure on the premises of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in the southern province of Fars needs to be developed, an official with the provincial government has said.

Due to the importance of tourism in Marvdasht county, tourists should be provided with welfare services, especially around Persepolis, ISNA quoted Mohammad Farrokhzadeh as saying on Saturday.

There is a need to increase the number of accommodation centers and meet other tourist needs such as restaurants and recreation services for families in this area, the official added.

Considering the various capacities of the province's tourism, including historical, medical, and nature tourism, the region offers a unique opportunity to the private sector's investors, he explained.

The province's tourism authorities will also facilitate work for the investors in the tourism field, he noted.

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

The royal city of Persepolis, which ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art, was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun

about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Hamedan exports $24m of handicrafts in H1

TEHRAN–Handicrafts products worth $24 million were exported from Hamedan province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started March 21), the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The products include woodwork, leatherwork, traditional jewelry, traditional embroidery, and semi-precious stones, Hashem Mazaheri explained on Sunday.

Potteries produced in Lalejin held an 80 percent share of handicraft exports from the west-central province, he added.

Lalejin, a world pottery capital in Hamedan province, is one of the most essential centers for the production of earthenware and ceramics in the country.

Lalejin celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital in 2016, a privilege given by jurors of the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council.

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

Dozens of Iranian handicrafts have gained the UNESCO Seal of Excellence during the past couple of years and some 295 fields of handicrafts are currently practiced across Iran with more than two million people engaging, the majority of whom are women.

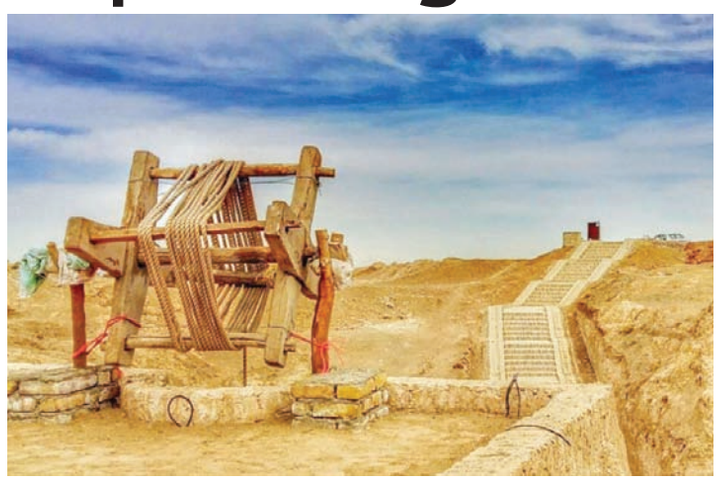
Iranian academics, European fellows to look at ways of preserving Persian qanats

from page 1 ▸ Earlier this year, Kerman province, which is home to many qanats, hosted a three-day conference in which tens of experts discussed ways to preserve the time-honored heritage.

The Persian Qanat system is a magnificent example of a technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in the history of human occupation of arid and semi-arid regions.

The concept of "Persian Qanat" was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016, representing eleven aqueducts across Iran. According to the UN cultural body, the qanat provides exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

It works based on complex calculations and exceptional architectural qualities as water is collected and transported by mere gravity over long distances and these transport systems were maintained over centuries and, at times, millennia. The qanat



system enabled settlements and agriculture but also inspired the creation of a desert-specific style of architecture and landscape involving not only the qanats themselves, but their associated structures, such as water reservoirs, mills, irrigation systems, and gardens.

When it comes to architectural elements, each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer. Well, shafts are sunk at regular intervals along the route of the tunnel to enable the removal of spoil and allow ventilation. These appear as craters from above, following the line of the qanat from the water source to the agricultural settlement. The water is transported along underground tunnels, so-called Koshkan, using gravity due to the gentle slope of the tunnel to the exit (Mazhar), from where it is distributed by channels to the agricultural land of the shareholders.

Furthermore, the levels, gradient, and length of the qanat are calculated by traditional methods requiring the skills of experienced qanat workers and have been handed down over centuries. Many qanats have sub-branches and water access corridors for maintenance purposes, as well as dependant structures including rest areas for the qanat workers, public and private hammams, reservoirs, and watermills. The traditional communal management system still in place allows equitable and sustainable water sharing and distribution.

The eleven qanats forming, a collective UNESCO World Heritage, are still active water carriers and have retained not only their architectural and technological structures but also their function.

Khaf, home to ancient windmills, is emerging destination for intl. travelers

TEHRAN—The ancient city of Khaf, which is home to numerous ancient windmills, is seen as an emerging destination for international sightseers.

"It was the 11th package tour of foreign sightseers in the current (Iranian) year that recently brought visitors to Khaf," a local official said on Sunday.

"38 Travelers from Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, New Zealand, and Australia visited Khaf in the current year," the official said.

Many of the travelers have said the type of historical attractions, and the warm and hospitable behavior of the people of Khaf attracted their attention, the official added.

Constructed of clay, wood, and straw, those ancient gears which are inherited from preceding generations are perched on a cliff overlooking the village, milling grain

for centuries. Technically speaking, unlike European windmills, the Persian design is powered by blades arrayed on a vertical axis in which the energy of the wind is translated down without the need for any of the intermediary gears found on the horizontal axis windmills.

Experts believe such primitive yet great machines bear testimony to the human being's adaption to nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities.

The development of Asbads took place due to strong and continuous 120-day winds, which annually sweep through the east and southeast of the Iranian Plateau from late May to late September. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the earliest known references to windmills are to a Persian millwright in 644 CE, and windmills in Seistan [Sistan], Iran, in 915 CE. In the early second millennium, some Eastern and Western states acquired the technology of making mills from Persia, though the prototype design constantly underwent amendments over time.

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for arrays of its ancient windmills that can be found in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi. In 2002, the windmills were recognized as a national heritage site by Iran.

Visits to Gilan province see two-fold rise in H1

TEHRAN—The number of travelers visiting Gilan province jumped more than 100 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) compared to a year ago.

"Gilan province recorded 42 million overnight stays during the first half of the year, which shows over a two-fold increase year on year," the provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani said on Saturday.

Some 53 million travelers arrived in the northern province during the mentioned period, the official said.

Gilan Rural Heritage Museum, Rudkhan Castle, and the village of Masuleh gained the most number of visitors during the period, the official added.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Rasht, the provincial capital, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial

action–it's the largest and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

Developing religious tourism in Islamic countries requires review, expert says

TEHRAN–The development of religious tourism in Islamic countries needs to be reviewed, a tourism expert and scholar has said.

"Muslim countries should examine the development paths of religious tourism," IRNA quoted Seyyed Rafi Mousavi as saying on Sunday.

Religious tourism is considered a means of cultural interaction between different nations, tribes, and religions, he said.

Besides its cultural, historical, and tourism capacities and attractions, Iran is also known as a Shiite Muslim country in West Asia, which could attract other Muslims, especially Shiites of neighboring countries, he added.

"There are many religious attractions in Iran, from Mashhad to Qom and Shiraz, which are known globally, and other cities in the north, south, and center have religious tourism potential as well."

However, a comprehensive plan must be developed based on the existing conditions and facilities to boost religious tourism in the county, he noted.

In addition to providing insight and knowledge, travel and tourism can help people discover cultural commonalities with other ethnic groups and other branches of religion as well as increase their understanding of the surrounding environment, he mentioned.

The number of religious tourists is growing, as, in 2018, about 400 million tourists traveled worldwide to visit religious locations and to participate in spiritual and religious rituals, he stated.

One of the greatest examples of religious tourism in the region is the Arbaeen pilgrimage, in which tourists from different communities go through a specific path toward a spiritual destination, he said.

Iran is home to hundreds of shrines, Imamzadehs, mausoleums, churches, and even fire temples amongst other religious destinations which are dedicated to different faiths. Among the top destinations for international tourists to Iran are the religious cities of Mashhad, Qom, Shiraz, and the capital Tehran.

These cities are respectively home to the holy shrines of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims; his sister Hazrat Masumeh (SA); his brothers Ahmad and Mohammad; as well as the late founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini.

A unique time for visiting Iran for religious tourists is during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram, when Iranians, who are mostly Shia Muslims, hold special ceremonies to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his 72 loyal companions.

Visit former military edifice in downtown Tehran

TEHRAN - In the vicinity of the grand bazaar in the heart of Tehran, stands the Qazaq-Khaneh (Cossack's quarters), a centuries-old edifice that still shows off minimal architecture.

The monument was originally a military fort in the Qajar era, serving as a base hosting Qazaqs (Cossacks), a special military force created under an agreement between Iran and Russia and led by Reza Shah and Colonel Vladimir Platonovitch Liakhov.

Qazaq-Khaneh was converted into the Ministry of War during the Pahlavi epoch. Now, it serves the University of Art for educational purposes.

The three-story structure has halls on the first floor as well as corridors with different rooms on the upper floors. Besides the main building, two other structures once served as dormitories for soldiers.

Its architecture is a mixture of Iranian and European arts, reflected on various porches built with nice views. The porches were raised to serve as platforms for high-ranking figures to watch military ceremonies that used to be held in the nearby areas.

The Qazaq-Khaneh building is the core of the Meydan-e Mashq, a military shooting range covering around 160,000 square meters.

However, in subsequent urban developments, this rifle range was turned into a garden, and its well-known gate was built under Reza Shah's command.

The area formerly known as Mashq Square is a must-see where you can easily spend a day visiting its different museums and sites.

As mentioned by Lonely Planet, Tehran is so much more than a chaotic jumble of concrete and crazy traffic, blanketed by a miasma of air pollution.

Embracing the lower slopes of the splendid, snowcapped Alborz Mountains, the city is the nation's dynamic beating heart and the place to get a handle on modern Iran and what its future will probably be.

Health insurance pays $15.6m for infertility treatment

TEHRAN – A total of 5 trillion rials (around $15.6 million) has been spent on infertility treatment and population youth law in the first six months of this year which began on March 21, the deputy head of the Health Insurance Organization has said.

Iran's universal public health insurance scheme, known as Salamat Health Insurance, covers hospitalization, para-clinical and outpatient services, including doctor's visits, radiology, lab tests, and medication costs at any public hospital affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

At present, 63 items of special medicine and 28 items of medical supplies that are needed for infertility treatment are covered by insurance companies, ISNA quoted Mehdi Rezaei as saying on Sunday.

He stated that some 56 government centers, 44 private centers, and about 30 independent and non-independent public centers are contracting parties with Health insurance, which has increased compared to last year.

According to the commitments, 90 percent of infertility treatment costs are covered by insurance. So far, in the first six months of the year, 5 trillion rials (around $15.6 million) have been spent on infertility services.

By a decree issued by President Ebrahim Raisi, the "Law on Family and Youth Support" approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) was notified to the Ministry of Health and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

The Guardian Council approved the law on November 17 to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

20% of Iranian couples have infertility problems

Four million Iranian couples (equivalent to 15-20 percent of total couples) suffer from infertility, Naser Amir Jannati, an infertility specialist, has said.

Numerous studies show that men are involved in more than 50 percent of infertility cases. In other words, they can be the main cause of this problem or play a role in this disorder along with female causes.

Although some of the causes of male infertility are still unknown, most of the causes are known and treatable, he highlighted, IRNA reported.

The provinces that have the highest number of infertile couples are Kerman, Bushehr, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Ilam, he added.

Births declined by 10,000

A total of 269,748 births were registered in the spring (March 21-June 21), showing a decrease of 10,816 births compared to the same period last year, according to the report released by the Statistical Center of Iran.

Over the first three months of this year, 130,715 girls and 139,033 boys were born in the country.

The fertility rate declined to 1.71 children in the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), reaching below the replacement level.

Replacement level is the amount of fertility needed to keep the population the same from generation to generation. It refers to the total fertility rate that will result in a stable population without it increasing or decreasing.

Over 3,600 involuntary prisoners freed in 6 months

TEHRAN – A total of 3,606 prisoners of unintentional crimes with debts amounting to 20 trillion rials (nearly $62 million) were released in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year which started on March 21).

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

Of the total released prisoners, 183 were female convicts and the rest were male debtors who were incarcerated due to inability to pay financial debts or inability to pay dues (workshop accidents and traffic accidents), Ali Shams, the head of the Blood Money Organization, said.

The prisoners had a sum of 20 trillion rials (about $62 million) in debt, and 35 percent of this amount has been forgiven by the plaintiffs, he said.

Isfahan's benefactors released the highest number of inmates amounting to 725 convicts, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

Since 1990, more than 151,000 unintentional crime doers who had debts have been freed.

14,600 inmates freed last year

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 14,681 inmates of unintentional crimes across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), Hadi Sadeghi, an official with the Judiciary, has said.

Last year, a total of 35 trillion rials (nearly $130 million) was donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 13 this year), through which, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei donated 5 billion rials (about $18,000).

Last year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly $24,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

Former President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and former Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around $14,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Annual food waste at 35m tons in Iran

From page 1 ▸ and its role in the prevention and treatment of diseases is undeniable.

According to the UN report, the number of people suffering from hunger has increased by 46 million compared to last year and reached 828 million. Therefore, the world is moving away from the goal of ending hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition by 2030.

Food security is one of the criteria of human development and the main goal of every country. Food security is established when all people have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs for an active and healthy life, Jalaleddin Razaz, the president of the Iran Nutrition Association, said.

Household income is one of the important factors in ensuring food security in a social system. At the same time, another important factor is the taste and nutritional knowledge of families in how to allocate funds to prepare the best available food and how to divide food among the family, he added.

In Iran, the need for internal and external organizational coordination is felt more than ever at this time, he stated, adding, considering the coronavirus, the inhumane sanctions, the difficult and complex economic conditions in the country, and inflation, can cause a serious crisis.

One of the solutions to deal with the problems of food security, especially the vulnerable groups, is the preparation and distribution of food baskets instead of subsidies and cash payments for low-income families, the implementation of which requires the cooperation of officials, he suggested.

Another very important point that can play an essential role in preventing food insecurity is addressing food waste in order to prevent this waste.

It should be noted that economically, food waste causes the loss of national resources such as energy, water, and land, and from an environmental point of view, food waste and losses cause a lot of damage, including water pollution and the release of greenhouse gases.

Research has shown that the changes that occur in societies, such as increasing urbanization, changing people's eating habits, and increasing global trade, cause an increase in food waste.

According to the report of the World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every day, 134 kilocalories of food are wasted per person in Iran. This amount of food waste has placed Iran among the first countries in the world producing food waste.

Accordingly, the annual food waste in Iran is equivalent to 35 million tons with an approximate value of $15 billion. Meanwhile, in the European Union with 27 member countries, only 9 million tons of food goes to waste.

Fruit, bread, and vegetables constitute the most food waste in Iran. FAO organization suggests reducing food waste to optimal use of excess food, preventing throwing away of fruits and vegetables, preparing compote, jam, and marmalade with excess fruits and dry vegetables, preparing food in the amount needed by the family, the proper storage of vegetables and the use of all parts, the correct way to buy and store bread, and the separation of dry and wet waste.

Food safety deals with the health and hygiene of food. In fact, food safety means ensuring that the food does not get microbial, chemical, or physical contamination during production, transportation, storage, cooking, and consumption and does not cause illness to consumers.

Today, food insecurity has grown significantly with the expansion of technologies, the use of additives, pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones in food production in developing countries, which has led to undeniable negative effects on human health, he explained.

Governments play a key role by monitoring and intervening in food matters. Of course, people as food consumers can play an important role in preventing food insecurity. This problem mainly appears when buying food. For example, measures such as checking the standard signs and nutritional labels on food products, carefulness of the number of calories in foods and their ingredients, and paying attention to the amount of fat, fiber, etc. in food should be taken into consideration, Razaz said.

IRANIAN LANGUAGES AND SCRIPTS

Part 14

Indigenous Sogdian was written in a script descended from "imperial" Aramaic, the "Sogdian" script; Manichean Sogdian was written in the Sogdian and Manichean scripts; and Christian Sogdian was written in Nestorian Syriac script. There are also a few Sogdian fragments in Brahmi script.

Several chronological stages or local variants of the language are attested. The oldest is that of the Ancient Letters (q.v.), which date from the early 4th century, the latest that found in some Christian Sogdian texts and late inscriptions.

The forms of the language as written in the three different scripts differ somewhat in phonology and morphology, while it is more difficult to establish genuine points of difference in the syntax, especially since translated texts, notably Buddhist and Christian, tended to imitate their originals (Chinese and Syriac).

Tokharian contains a fair number of Iranian loanwords that may have been borrowed from a form of proto-Sogdian.

The earliest grammar was Gauthiot and Benveniste (1914, 1929). Gershevitch's grammar of Manichean Sogdian (1954) was the only complete grammar of its time (although short on syntax).

Recent descriptions with bibliographies include those in Osnovy and CLI. For Christian Sogdian morphology.

Qarib/Gharib is a complete dictionary of texts published to that date.

In the early 20th century, the language of Chorasmia, a state along the upper Oxus/Amu Darya, was still known primarily from its calendrical terminology, cited by Abu Rayhan Biruni. Since then, archeological excavations have uncovered miscellaneous inscriptions and documents on parchment and wood from ca. 200-700 C.E., and a number of Arabic works containing interlinear glosses in Chorasmian have come to light.

All these texts have now been published, and there are several dictionaries and grammatical descriptions.

The Chorasmian inscriptions are written in the indigenous script descended from Aramaic. They are mainly lists of names and dates, with frequent use of arameograms.

The glosses are written in Arabic script, with several modified letters. Especially those in the Moqaddemat al-adab are often under-pointed or not pointed at all, which makes them hard to interpret.

A description of Chorasmian with bibliography is found in CLI. Dictionaries and glossaries include Benzing (1983) and Samadi (1986).

Tumshuqese

This language, the local name of which may have been Gyazdiya, was spoken on the Northern Silk Road in a local kingdom in the area of Kucha.

It is known from a dozen or so legal documents and a few Buddhist and Manichean manuscript fragments currently in Berlin and London.

To be continued

Source: Iranica

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 takes lowest toll on foreign nationals in Iran

Iran had the lowest coronavirus cases and mortality among refugees and foreign nationals compared to the population it is hosting, Mehdi Mahmoudi, Director of Citizens and Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior has said.

Referring to the measures taken for non-Iranian citizens during the pandemic, he said that since the very beginning, when the country became infected with the disease, the community of foreign nationals in our country was no exception to this issue, and prevention programs and necessary measures have been taken for this group.

"We identified foreign nationals in need and tried to provide them with livelihood assistance, as well as health packages and self-protective items needed to prevent the infection," he explained.

He further added that every year about 800,000 illegal foreign nationals are arrested and deported.

ایران کمترین تلفات کرونا اتباع خارجی را داشته‌است

مهدی محمودی مدیرکل امور اتباع و مهاجرین وزارت کشور گفت در خصوص ابتلا به بیماری کرونا در بین اتباع خارجی،ایران کمترین ابتلا و کمترین تلفات را نسبت به جمعیت داشته‌است.

او در گفت‌وگو با ایلنا درباره اقدامات صورت گرفته برای اتباع غیرایرانی در ایام کرونا گفت: از همان ابتدا که کشور درگیر این بیماری شد، جامعه اتباع خارجی هم در کشور ما مستثنی از این موضوع نبود و برنامه‌های پیشگیری و تمهیدات لازم نیز برای این گروه نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.

اتباع غیرایرانی که نیازمند بودند را شناسایی کرده و تلاش کردیم از نظر معیشتی به این گروه نیز کمک‌هایی صورت بگیرد و همچنین بسته‌های بهداشتی و اقلام مورد نیاز پیشگیری از بیماری کرونا در چندین نوبت به آنها ارائه شده است.

او افزود هر سال حدود ۸۰۰ هزار نفر از اتباع غیرایرانی که به صورت غیرقانونی در کشور هستند دستگیر و طرد می‌شوند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 16

New cases	327
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,554,333
Total deaths	144,519
New hospitalized patients	72
Patients in critical condition	119
Total recovered patients	7,329,143
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,242,066
Doses of vaccine injected	154,900,296

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:50 Evening: 17:45 Dawn: 4:50 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:13 (tomorrow)

Iranian children's series Golden Books returns to stores after 58 years

From Page **1** ▸ "I have read most of the children's books written or translated into Persian, and for a long time, I wanted to provide some books for people in my generation and my child friends," he added.

To fulfill his dream, Jafari began learning English.

"I entered the world of stories written in this language and found them interesting and instructive. I thought that translating some of the books in a collection would be useful for children, therefore, I decided to present the Persian translation of the stories and Golden Books were published," he explained.

He noted that he has avoided literal translation, and has streamlined the stories.

Abdorrahim Jafari, father of Mohammadreza and the director of Amir Kabir, also said, "Over 50 years have passed since the publication of Golden Books... many of those people who read the series in their childhood at that time are now the parents of present readers of the new edition."

A combination photo shows the front covers of some books from the Golden Books series.

"There are many instructive lessons about life in these stories written by the great writers of the world, therefore, stories will never die; for children, stories are not lifeless writings, they liven up children's imaginations and they live within them," he stated.

He also expressed his hope that the stories would bring children deep insight and courage, and protect them from disappointment and meanness.

"Over a half century after its first edition, the new series has been published to encourage reading among children. Perhaps some great writers would emerge from the competent readers," Jafari said.

Persian fiction in Afghanistan

Part 1

The introduction of modern fiction in Afghanistan was concomitant with the institution of new educational and literary organizations, namely the Habibieh School and Anjoman-e Adabi, and the publication of the bi-weekly Seraj al-Akhbar-e Afghanieh, edited by Mahmud Tarzi, in the early twentieth century.

In addition to editorials, news articles, and political and social commentaries, Seraj al-Akhbar contained numerous pieces of poetry and short stories.

Hoping to generate a new literary consciousness, Tarzi contrasted the prevalent approaches in what he called "eastern" and "western" fictions in a series of articles entitled "What is literature?" and clearly advocated the introduction of Western models and genres.

He maintained that traditional narratives (qesseh, afsaneh, and revayat) were no longer adequate to address subject matters that could be expressed only through European genres like the novel and short story.

To this end, he published translations of a variety of foreign poetry as well as a number of novels from foreign languages.

While the extent of Tarzi's own influence in the cultural scene of early twentieth century Afghanistan is difficult to assess, Seraj al-Akhbar provided the earliest and most important forum for the dissemination of modern trends in Afghan fiction.

Following the assassination of Amir Habibollah in 1919, his son and successor Amanollah attempted to recruit prominent literary and cultural figures for his regime.

Furthermore, he attempted, much more rigorously than his father, to introduce a number of social and cultural reforms.

As part of this program, several official and semi-official newspapers and journals started to appear in Kabul and the provinces in the 1920s.

Although they all contained pieces of fiction and poetry, only Nasim-e Sahar and Moarref-e Moaref (later named Ayine-ye Erfan and further shortened to Erfan, were predominantly literary journals. The earliest works of fiction in Afghanistan date from this decade.

In 1919, Mohammad-Hossein, who had returned from India and was serving as an instructor at the Habibieh School, wrote Jahad-e Akbar (The Greatest Battle) which is now considered the earliest piece of modern fiction in Afghanistan.

As the title suggests, the story revolves around the struggle of Afghan fighters against the British in the nineteenth century. Soon afterwards, Abdoqader Afandi, another former exile in India, published the story Tasvir-e Ebrat (Picture of Admonition), a structurally tighter and descriptively more vivid story.

Another notable work of fiction in this period was Jashn-e Esteqlal dar Bolivia (The Independence Celebration in Bolivia) by Mortaza Ahmad.

Originally written in English, the story was soon translated into Persian and published in a somewhat abbreviated form in 1926.

Lowhe-ye Vafa (The Tablet of Fidelity) by Gholam-Hazrat Shayeq Jamal, and the pedagogical Neda-ye Talabe-ye ma'aref (The Proclamation of the Students of Culture) by Mohy ad-Din Anis also appeared in this period.

Intended largely as social commentaries, these early works of fiction – romantic and idealist in tone and mode – reflected the changing political environment in the country.

Furthermore, they contributed to the simplification of Persian prose which was until then dominated by ornate classical styles.

The downfall of Amanollah in the wake of the 1929 rebellion and the succession to power of Mohammad-Nader (1929-33) and his son Mohammad-Zaher (1933-73) affected the course of literary creativity in Afghanistan considerably.

On the one hand the new power elite took repressive measures to curb independent activities of the literati and, on the other hand, sponsored cultural institutions like The Literary Society (Anjoman-e Adabi) and The Historical Society (Anjoman-e Tarikh) and expanded public education and the press to an unprecedented degree.

The government succeeded in establishing an active and prolific, though largely conformist, group of intelligentsia that dominated the literary and cultural scene during the period.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, in addition to the publication of short stories, a number of novels and longer novellas appeared in installments in newspapers.

Panzdah Sal Qabl (Fifteen Years Ago) by Malekzada was an early successful attempt away from the overall romantic atmosphere of the prose fiction of the preceding decades.

Ebrahim Alamshahi's Sham-e Tarik, Sobh-e Rowshan (Dark Dusk, Bright Dawn) was another important story of this period. These stories, along with Solayman-Ali Jaghori's Bigom, Gol-Mohammad Zwanday's Firuz, Jalal ad-Din Khoshnava's Khanjar (Dagger), and Amin ad-Din Ansari's Dar Jostoju-ye Kimia (In Search of Alchemy) were written in a predominantly pedagogic and overtly didactic mode.

These examples of prose fiction were generally critical of the prevalent social relations, and their authors advocated reform and economic progress under the direction of the state.

Two influential writers of prose fiction in the 1940s and 1950s were Najibollah Turvayaneh and Abd al-Rahman Pazvak. The more successful of Turvayana's stories consist of his semi-historical narratives, stories that betray the author's nostalgia for a glorious heritage of the past.

Characters of his stories include Mahmud of Hgazna, Mohammad Kharazmshah and his son Jalal ad-Din who resisted the Mongol onslaught, as well as men in Afghan frontiers who successfully fought the Mughal rulers of India.

As Pazhvak's collection of short stories, Afsaneha-ye Mardom (1957) suggests, popular stories, folktales, legends, and romance constitute the main component of his essentially lyrical prose fiction.

Aziz al-Rahman Fathi's novel Dar Pay-e Nastaran (At the Sweetbrier's Stem, 1952) was a major contribution to the growth of Afghan fiction.

Although the story lacks a well incorporated narrative plot and technically unified thematic structure, and contains many superfluous episodes, Fathi's work shows a better grasp of the genre of prose fiction than any of his predecessors or contemporaries in Afghanistan.

Fathi's lead was followed by younger writers of the period such as Shafi' Rahgozar, Habibollah Bahjat, Abd al-Ahmad Ada, Hgolam-Hossein Fa'al, Musa Nahmat, and Hasan Ghamin.

A prolific writers of fiction in this period was Musa Hemmat who had edited Peymaneh (Goblet, 1963), the first anthology of contemporary short stories in Afghanistan.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Iran withdraws from 2022 Frankfurt Book Fair

TEHRAN – Iran announced on Sunday that has officially withdrawn from the Frankfurt Book Fair over "the organizers' uncultured actions."

The decision by Iran to pull out was made after the organizers of the book fair sent a letter to the Iran Book and Literature House, the coordinator of the country's presence in international cultural events.

Without referring to the contents of the letter, the house called them "obvious attempts at meddling in Iran's internal affairs", and accused the organizers of being unable to provide security for Iran's pavilion following their decision to remove the pavilion from the "main hall" of the fair and relocate it to a "minor hall."

The Iran Book and Literature House also accused the Embassy of Germany in Tehran of procrastinating over issuing visas for some officials of the house.

Germany and several other countries in Europe have criticized Iran over its official policy towards the unrest that has hit the country over the past month.

This is the second time that Iran has withdrawn from the Frankfurt Book Fair, which will hold its 74th edition from October 19 to 23 in the central German city.

In 2015, Iran boycotted the Frankfurt Book Fair after the organizers announced Salman Rushdie would be the guest speaker for the fair's opening press conference.

Rushdie is the author of "The Satanic Verses", a blasphemous novel about Islam that was published in 1988.

A file photo shows an Iranian publisher talking to a visitor at Iran's pavilion during the 2016 Frankfurt Book Fair. (Tehran Times/Mohsen Mohammadi)

The book sparked Muslims' outrage, which culminated in a fatwa by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, calling for Rushdie's death.

"The Beekeeper's Apprentice" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen" by Laurie R. King has been published in Persian.

Zahra Bakhtari is the translator of the detective story published by Qatreh.

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees in Sussex when a young woman literally stumbles onto him on the Sussex Downs.

Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes.

Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern, twentieth-century woman proves a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective.

They are soon called to Wales to help Scotland Yard find the kidnapped daughter of an American senator, a case of international significance with clues that dip deep into Holmes's past.

Full of brilliant deduction, disguises and danger, "The Beekeeper's Apprentice", the first book of the Mary Russell–Sherlock Holmes mysteries, is remarkably beguiling.

"The Beekeeper's Apprentice" is the first book in the Mary Russell series by King. It was nominated for the Agatha best novel award and was deemed a Notable Young Adult book by the American Library Association.

The series that this novel begins currently stands at twenty novels, with the latest having been published in 2021.

Front cover of the Persian edition of Laurie R. King's novel "The Beekeeper's Apprentice".

Edgar-winning mystery writer King writes series and standalone novels.

Her 2018 novel, "Island of the Mad", sees Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes travel from London's Bedlam to the glitter of Venice's Lido, where Young Things and the friends of Cole Porter pass Mussolini's Blackshirts in the streets.

The Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series follows a brilliant young woman who becomes the student, then the partner, of the great detective.

The Stuyvesant and Grey series takes place in Europe between the Wars. The Kate Martinelli series follows an SFPD detective's cases on a female Rembrandt, a holy fool and more.

King lives in northern California, which serves as a backdrop for some of her books.

A tragic story what won't be forgotten

A review of the book "204 St"

"204 St" by Zahra Kardani, is about the tragic event of the Mina stampede that led to the death of more than 7500 individuals. To set the narrative more on records, rather than just emotions, the author has applied the documentary style.

In order to discover her personal concerns and questions regarding this catastrophe, she made the difficult decision to go through a process of interviewing and researching in order to present her findings as a book.

There are four chapters in this book. The first chapter is dedicated to individuals who were actually present at 204 St, when the disaster occurred and witnessed their loved ones killed.

The second chapter focuses on the narrative from the view of fellow travelers, who were not personally there, and third chapter is about the investigation team, which was engaged in rescue and search since the early hours.

The final chapter is devoted to the families who lost beloved ones in the Mina stampede.

The narratives are generally about what happened in the Mina stampede, from different people's perspectives. All the shocks, fears, hopes, doubts, sleeplessness, persistence, loneliness, and weeps have been described in this book.

Another strength is that it provides you multiple viewpoints on the catastrophe that you have never heard of through media or news, and it is said impartially.