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Report

UN tells Israel to destroy nuclear weapons

The United Nations General Assembly on Sunday voted 152-5 in favor of a resolution that demands Israel destroy all its nuclear weapons arsenal and allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit its nuclear facilities.

The vote was undertaken by the UN's First Committee which deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security.

Four countries - Canada, Micronesia, Palau, and the United States - as well as the Israeli regime, opposed the resolution on the "risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (West Asia)." Another 24 countries abstained, including some members of the European Union.

The resolution declares that Israel is the only entity in the West Asia region and one of the few UN members (193 total) that has not signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The significant support for the resolution at the UNGA in New York reflects the widespread international frustration with the Israeli regime's nuclear threat in West Asia. This is especially true when the number of countries Israel has invaded or attacked and the countless number of genocides it has committed is taken into consideration. The existence of Israeli nukes has in essence made the occupying regime an extreme source of insecurity in the region.

The resolution reaffirmed "the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East (West Asia)." ▸ Page 5

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Halloween in Saudi Arabia: Ignorance under mask of modernity

The festival of Halloween was celebrated in Saudi Arabia in which revelers dressed up in scary costumes flocked to the event held in the capital Riyadh.

As part of the continuing Riyadh Season, the "Scary Weekend" event was held on Thursday and Friday at Riyadh's Boulevard.

The Boulevard was transformed into a costume party with free admission for dressed-up guests as long as they donned frightful attire.

The purpose of the event was to display horrifying disguises and display locals' and Saudis' inventive creations. It was also intended to create an environment that was enjoyable, thrilling, and exciting as visitors learned the backstories of the various character outfits.

Halloween celebrations in Saudi Arabia caused widespread controversy on social networking sites after pictures and videos of people dressed in costumes for Halloween surfaced. ▸ Page 5

Iran arrests second person involved in Shiraz terrorist attack

TEHRAN - A second person who was accomplice in the terrorist attack on the Shah-e Cheragh shrine in Shiraz was detained on Sunday night, Intelligence Minister Esmaeil Khatibzadeh announced on Monday.

"Last night we succeeded to identify and arrest the second person involved in the Shah-e Cheragh terrorist incident," Khatibzadeh said in a national congress of the Civil Defense Organization.

Hours later, the Intelligence Ministry also issued a statement stating that in a complicated operation six more persons who "provided support for the terrorist criminal team" had been apprehended.

A terrorist attacked pilgrims in the Shah-e Cheragh shrine on October 26. The attack took place at evening prayers.

The Daesh Takfiri terrorist group claimed responsibility for the savage act.

The heavily-armed terrorist killed 15 pilgrims, including a woman and three schoolchildren, and wounded at least 30 others.

According to police chief of Fars province, the gunman started mowing down at everyone within the shrine. Security personnel injured the offender and then arrested him. Later, he perished from his wounds.

Since the attacker was killed the arrest of his accomplice on Sunday night can provide clues to security and intelligence officials.

Iran's top security and political officials have said those behind the vicious attack will not go unpunished.

Intl. auto parts expo underway in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran's 17th International Auto Parts Exhibition was kicked off on Sunday at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRNA reported.

More than 550 domestic companies along with 55 foreign exhibitions from 11 different countries including China, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Netherlands, the UAE, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia are presenting their latest products and services in this four-day exhibition.

As one of the biggest events of the auto-related industries in the region, the exhibition is a good opportunity for auto parts manufacturers to introduce their latest products and get to know the achievements of other countries in this sector.

This year's exhibition is held with the aim of presenting the capabilities of domestic companies and directing them to global markets.

Carlos Queiroz laments his players' absence

TEHRAN - Head coach of the Iran football national team, Carlos Queiroz, lamented his side's preparation for the 2022 World Cup.

He is deeply disturbed that Qatari Al Ahli club has not released his two defenders.

"In one way or another, the reality is that our preparation program is not moving in the right direction," said the Portuguese coach to the reporters at the national team training camp on Monday.

"Preparation is a key step in our way to the 2022 World Cup. Without preparation, it is difficult to succeed. Once the players are not here to be part of the team selection, it's difficult to consider them. So probably some of them lose their position in the national team because they are not here," he added.

"For instance, we have a problem with our two important players, Shoja Khalilzadeh and Hossein Kananizadegan. Unfortunately, Qatari club Al Ahli do not allow them to train with us. But five weeks without playing football before a big tournament like the World Cup is difficult for them to be part of the list; it's very difficult," Queiroz stated.

It seems that the 69-year-old coach wants to make crucial changes in his squad due to the current condition. ▸ Page 3

© ISNA/ Amid Farahi

Players train in football federation camp

TEHRAN – Iran football federation trained at the Iran football federation's training camp on Monday.

Team Melli, headed by Carlos Queiroz, will travel to Doha, Qatar on Nov. 13.

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

Iranian universities among QS global sustainability ranking

TEHRAN – Based on the 2023 QS World University Rankings for Sustainability, three Iranian institutions are among the top sustainable ones in the world.

The University of Tehran, Amirkabir University of Technology, and Shiraz University are listed in this ranking system, all of which are among the top 500 universities.

The brand-new classification, published by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, evaluates how universities are taking action to tackle the world's most pressing environmental and social issues.

Out of 1,300 higher-education institutions previously evaluated by QS, 700 met specific eligibility requirements to appear in this ranking. ▸ Page 7

Iran's "Maman" garners awards for stars at Les Rimbaud du Cinema

TEHRAN – The Iranian drama "Maman" has won the awards for best actor and supporting actor for its stars Roya Afshar and Erfan Ebrahimi at the Les Rimbaud du Cinema festival in France.

Afshar received the award for her portrayal of a woman, who lost all the beautiful things she once had – including her name, her job and her husband – years ago, after the outbreak of the war.

Now she works as a cab driver and lives in a small apartment with two of her three sons, one of them is portrayed by Ebrahimi.

In order to proceed with her maternal authority, she keeps her sons apart from each other and of course from a piece of land she owns. Just when she gets rid of the wife of her youngest son, the other son decides to marry one of his colleagues. And the story develops in two parallel worlds: in the world of the real and the world recreated in a film script the youngest son is writing. ▸ Page 8

Puzzling minarets worth visiting once!

For centuries Menar Jonban ("shaking minarets"), which stand tall in the ancient city of Isfahan, have been a source of charm for Iranians and even foreign visitors as they are really prone to vibrate!

The minarets are almost 17 meters in height from the ground level, and at a distance of about 10 meters.

The popular destination is initially a tomb topped by two brick towers that can be rotated with little pressure; When one is shaken by human power, the other will automatically vibrate.

Originally constructed some 700 years ago as a mausoleum for "Amu Abdullah" who was a mystic figure in the Ilkhanid era (1256-1353 CE). Archeological studies suggest that the dual minarets were later added to the mausoleum during the Safavid era (1501–1736).

Over the past decades, some unique characteristics of the shaking of the minarets, and the entire building, have been repeatedly studied. Findings indicate that the specific dimensions and proportions of the building and minarets and even the material forming the bricks used for the building contribute to the vibrations.

It is suggested, following physical experiments, that this phenomenon is similar to the mirror image vibrations observed when connecting two vertical identical pieces of string to a connecting horizontal one. ▸ Page 6

Kerman pupils bid sorrowful farewell to youngest Shah-e Cheragh martyr

TEHRAN - Thousands of people from all layers of society on Monday said goodbye to an 8-year-old pupil, Ali Asghar Lorigoyini, who was martyred in the Shiraz terrorist incident on October 26.

In addition to Ali Asghar, two other schoolchildren were martyred in the attack on the Shah-e Cheragh shrine in Shiraz, the capital of Far province.

The immaculate body of Ali Asghar was laid to rest on Monday morning while the brave people of Kerman, including the families of the martyrs, pupils and local officials, gathered to decry the nefarious act of terror which was claimed by the Daesh terrorist group.

Lorigoyini was buried in the city of Kerman, known as "the capital of Islamic resistance". (Kerman has got this title as the birthplace of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, the anti-terror hero who was assassinated by the U.S. in Iraq in January 2020.)

While biding their final and sorrowful farewell to the youngest martyr of the terrorist attack, the enthusiastic people called for bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Before the evening prayers on October 26, a heavily-armed terrorist attacked the well-known shrine, killing 15 pilgrims, including a woman, and wounded at least 30 others.

According to the provincial police chief, the gunman started mowing down at everyone within the shrine. Security personnel injured the offender and then arrested him. Later, he perished from his wounds.

Six of the victims, who were the natives of Fars province, were buried in the courtyard of the Shah-e Cheragh shrine on Sunday. Large number of people from different cities, including neighboring provinces, poured into Shiraz to pay tribute to them.

A huge funeral procession was also held in Shiraz on Saturday. It was attended by top IRGC and Army commanders as well as political officials. IRGC chief Major General Hossein Salami addressed the mourners.

Iran FM talks to Azeri counterpart, issues stark warning over foreign interference

TEHRAN- Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has expressed Iran's vehement opposition to any foreign presence in the South Caucasus region, emphasizing that regional cooperation is essential to their shared peace and security.

The senior diplomat made the remarks in a telephone call with Jeyhun Bayramov over the phone on Sunday evening.

"We regard the regional security to be a contiguous category, and consider the Republic of Azerbaijan's security to be integrated with that of the region and that of our own," he noted.

The Iranian official said, "We declare our opposition to any deployment of foreign forces in the region and consider it to be in contradiction to the regional peace, stability, and cooperation."

According to him, the Islamic Republic believes that the presence of foreign countries within the region will complicate the present predicament.

Tehran maintains that only "regional mechanisms"—including the 3+3 mechanism of cooperation between regional nations, which brings together the three South Caucasian countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan as well as Russia, Turkey, and Iran—can assist to tackle the region's challenges

Azerbaijan and its estranged neighbor Armenia have long-standing disputes, which the Iranian foreign minister stressed the Islamic Republic will always continue to work to settle.

His remarks came against the backdrop of a bubbling and periodically deadly dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Although Nagorno-Karabakh is widely acknowledged to be a part of Azerbaijan, ethnic Armenians have long inhabited the region.

A recent escalation in the neighborhood's simmering tensions last month resulted in the deaths of over 100 troops on both sides. This was the most recent confrontation between the Caucasus countries since a 44-day war over the region that ended in November 2020 and claimed hundreds of lives.

For his part, the Azeri foreign minister praised Iran for its efforts to promote stability and peace in the region.

Additionally, he expressed Baku's opposition to foreign military presence in the region and emphasized the value of ongoing regional cooperation, especially the 3+3 format.

"We give importance and respect to these relationships," Bayramov said, adding, "Sustained direct communication between the Iranian and Azeri counterparts revealed the depth of the nations' relations."

> "We consider Azerbaijan's security that of our own."

The Azeri official also expressed happiness over Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf's scheduled visit to Baku, calling it an essential step toward furthering bilateral ties.

Iran condoles with families of victims of Seoul stampede

TEHRAN - Following the deaths and injuries of tens of people during a stampede in a celebration in Seoul, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani condoled with the families of the victims, people of South Korea and the families of the dead and the injured.

The spokesman expressed hope that, with the necessary measures by the officials in Seoul, the identification of all the victims of the bitter incident will be completed as soon as possible, according to a statement by the foreign ministry.

Kanaani talked about the follow-up measures by the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Seoul and its contact with Korean officials, adding the results show so far five Iranian nationals have been unfortunately confirmed to have been among the victims of the incident.

The spokesman said the embassy of Iran immediately contacted Korean officials and the foreign ministry in the early hours after the incident has been following up on the situation of fellow countrymen and the follow-up measures continue with the aim of getting more complete information on the latest situation of the Iranian compatriots and the possible injured or missing.

Kanaani reiterated that the Iranian embassy considers securing the legal and consular rights of the Iranian victims of the incident a priority.

Iran's embassy in Seoul said in a statement on Sunday that four Iranian citizens, three women and a man, died in Saturday night's stampede in Seoul, Tasnim reported.

The Iranian victims were identified as Afaq Rastmanesh, Ali Parakand, Reyhaneh Sadat Atashi, and Sommayeh Moqiminejad.

Iran advises EU to take rational approaches

'Ill-considered and provocative actions turned peaceful demands into riots'

TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday heavily criticized the EU and Western countries for double standards regarding Iran.

The comments by Nasser Kanaani came in response to Western countries' interventions in Iran's internal affairs and the statement of the 12 Western foreign ministers.

"Unfortunately, during the recent developments in Iran, we witnessed interventionist statements and unconstructive and irresponsible actions. In reality, these interventionist, ill-considered and provocative actions turned the peaceful demands of some sections of the Iranian society into riots and created inappropriate conditions," Kanaani told a regular news briefing.

The spokesman said that these riots changed the context for hearing the voices of people who had peaceful views and provided the ground for violent people.

The basis of these interventions was purportedly intended to defend the rights of women and minorities but were hypocritical in nature, Kanaani remarked.

> Foreign Ministry spokesman advises the EU not to tie its interests to America and not to be emotional about Iran's issues.

"Minorities are the original components of the great Iranian society. These governments talk about women's rights and defending these rights. Such statements are intrusive and combined with lying and hypocrisy," the spokesman said.

The diplomat noted that those who talk about women's rights did not pay attention to the unilateral sanctions of the American government and Europe's acquiesce the to the sanctions targeting the Iranian people including women, girls and children without discrimination.

Kanaani added that their claims are "hypocritical" and their statements about Iranian women and ethnic groups are "unrealistic".

The realties in Iran are different, the ministry official remarked.

"Women's rights in Iran are not only derived from laws but also from Iranian history and culture. In Iranian and Islamic culture, women have a distinct and prominent position. This position does not necessarily arise from laws, but rather from the culture and history of Iran," the spokesman opined.

Kanaani continued that what the Western countries have done in recent days not only was not in line with the legal rights of women, but even deprived the Iranian citizens of their right to life, the result of which was seen in the Shah-e-Cheragh terrorist incident in Shiraz in which 15 citizens, including a woman and three children, lost their lives.

"The interventionist positions of these countries were provocative and irresponsible and these actions played a role in creating an atmosphere of chaos," the diplomat noted.

'Sanctioning IRGC will be illegal'

Elsewhere in the presser, the diplomat discussed the statements of the German officials regarding imposing sanctions on the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), saying, "If such an action is taken, it will be a continuation of the unconstructive and irresponsible actions of these countries in relation to Iran and is due to the continuation of their wrong approach in relation to the government and people of Iran. The IRGC is the official military institution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and such action will be completely illegal."

He then expressed hope that both the German government and other governments would pay attention to the results of their unconstructive actions and not sacrifice their own mutual interests for momentary political interests and emotional decisions.

'U.S. media empire is at service of falsifying facts'

The spokesman also responded to efforts by the United States to form an informal meeting of the United Nations Security Council about the recent unrest in Iran, saying, "Unfortunately, the media empire of the American government is still being used in the service of sanctioning and falsifying the facts in Iran. By doing that, they are trying to provide a political environment for the formation of this meeting, and the (bitter) point is that a number of Iranian diaspora are invited to this meeting to speak against Iran. People who, despite their Iranian identity and citizenship, in the past years and in a situation when the people of Iran and their compatriots were under the most difficult conditions due to the illegal and unilateral sanctions of the United States, and even the supply of vaccines was not available during the coronavirus pandemic, did not speak up in any platform. Now they are going to be invited and speak against Iran from that platform."

He then noted that UN Special Rapporteur Javid Rahman's anti-Iran approach is not ineffective in this regard.

'Iran doesn't arm Russia in war with Ukraine'

The spokesman reiterated for what seemed like a hundredth time that Iran does not export weapons to any side, including Russia, to use them in the Ukraine war.

"Iran is against the war in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, etc. and believes in the necessity of using political solutions to resolve disputes," he stressed.

Kanaani continued by saying that all Iran's diplomatic efforts since the beginning of this crisis until now has been focused on trying to end the war by using political mechanisms, contrary to the claimant countries that level accusations against Iran and export billions of dollars of military equipment to one side of the war.

'South Korea is not in a position to lecture Iran'

The spokesman then once again offered his condolences regarding the Halloween stampede in South Korea which killed over 150 people, including 5 Iranians.

"We have shown a humane response. We do not mix political issues with humanitarian issues. South Korea is a country with which we had a very good relationship over the past years, but unfortunately, as a result of being influenced by foreign pressure, especially the United States, has acted very irresponsibly in blocking assets from Iran's exports, and has taken an unconstructive and irresponsible position in relation to our internal developments," the diplomat lamented.

Kanaani further noted that South Korea is not in a position to preach Iran on management.

"In this country, during a festival nearly 200 people lost their lives and dozens of people were injured with their mismanagement. This country cannot teach Iran a lesson in ethics and management in relation to the management of riots in which foreign governments are on one side. If they knew how to manage, they should have managed this festival. Unfortunately, five Iranians lost their lives in this incident. Our approach was humanitarian and we expressed our condolences and sympathies," Kanaani said.

> "Women's rights in Iran are not only derived from laws but also from Iranian history and culture.

He added: I offer my condolences to the bereaved families of five Iranian citizens and wish them patience. From the first hours we heard the news, we fulfilled our consular duties and will follow up on the latest situation."

'Iran International is a quasi-media operating against Iranians'

Regarding the performance of the Saudi-funded Iran International network, the spokesman said that the diplomatic apparatus has definitely expressed its opinion and view to the Saudi side through diplomatic channels.

"The performance of this quasi-media is similar to the performance of a war room. Iran International operates against the Iranian nation, and its activities are similar to the activities of a terrorist media. Iran has so far taken measures in various ways and is pursuing additional measures for the legal confrontation with this network and its results will be announced at the appropriate time," the diplomat said.

According to Kanaani, the decision of the United States and Europe coupled with their recent actions regarding Iran were unconstructive and derived from their misunderstanding of Iran's internal developments and it is a continuation of their past wrong policies in relation to Iran.

"Making any issue an excuse to impose new sanctions against the government and people of Iran is repeating the wrong policies of the past," he asserted.

"At some point, with a realistic understanding of the ineffectiveness of sanctions, they became interested in dialogue with Iran. Iran has not and will not leave the negotiation table and entered the negotiation process. Iran does not want to have a direct confrontation with the European Union and enter into a confrontational process with them. Iran's position is dialogue based on equality and focusing on common interests," Kanaani noted.

He then advised the EU not to tie its interests to America and not to be emotional about Iran's issues.

"We advise them not to bet wrongly on Iran's internal developments, and to take the path of constructive interaction and cooperation. Certainly, Iran's response to respectful and constructive behavior will be reciprocal behavior, mutual respect and constructive interaction, and reciprocally, if they pull the trigger on sanctions, Iran will use the tools in its hand, as it did in return," he cautioned.

'Our message to neighbors is peace'

On the recent remarks of Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on Iran, he also said, "Our message to our neighbors is peace and friendship and respect for the principles and relations of neighborliness combined with mutual respect.

"This approach is not only declarative and political, but it is Iran's practical approach in relation to all its neighbors, and it expects the opposite parties in the same framework and based on Iran's goodwill," Kanaani said.

"We expect the neighbors to adhere to the principles of neighborliness and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Any approach other than this is unconstructive and against the interests of nations and governments and provides the ground for abuse," the spokesman concluded.

'Sharing legislative experience vital to Tehran-Damascus ties'

TEHRAN- Friendly gatherings and the exchange of legislative experiences, according to the deputy Syrian head of the Syria-Iran parliamentary friendship group, are crucial to deepening connections between the two fraternal nations and governments.

Speaking to IRNA ahead of leaving Damascus for Tehran on Sunday, Haifa Jumaa said, "This visit is made based on an invitation forwarded by Abbas Golru, the Iranian head of the Iran-Syria parliamentary friendship group, and it is an honor for us to visit Tehran."

"The mutual purpose of these meetings between our friends and brothers in the Iranian Islamic Parliament and the Syrian People's Parliament is sharing experiences and renewing visits of our Iranian comrades," the Syrian MP continued.

Based on the comments of the top Syrian lawmaker, expanding parliamentary ties is crucial to the development of relations between the two nations.

Members of the Iranian-Syrian parliamentary friendship group visited Damascus last year; the Syrian parliamentary delegation is making a reciprocal visit.

Tajikistan denies providing Iranian-made drones for use in Ukraine war

TEHRAN – The Interior Ministry of Tajikistan has denied reports that Iranian drones manufactured in Tajikistan were provided to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

The Ministry repudiated allegations that Iranian drones produced in Tajikistan were sent to conflict zones in Ukraine, Fars News reported, citing Interfax.

Earlier, the Tajik foreign ministry had denied in a statement the allegations regarding the production of Iranian drones in the country to be used by Russia against Ukraine.

Over the last few weeks, the West leveled massive allegations against Iran over the alleged export of Iranian drones to Russia in the midst of war in Ukraine.

Iran denied that it took sides in the Ukraine war.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian spoke over the phone with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, on Friday to discuss the matter.

They discussed the latest developments related to the Ukraine crisis and bilateral topics, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Amir Abdollahian strongly dismissed the claims about the use of Iranian drones in the war in Ukraine, saying, "The Islamic Republic has had the experience of the eight-year imposed war and is thus opposed to war in Ukraine, Yemen, and elsewhere."

The Iranian foreign minister said, "We have good ties with Russia and we have had defense cooperation from the past, but our policy toward the Ukraine war is to respect the territorial integrity of countries, not to send weapons to the conflicting parties, and to stop the war and the people's displacement."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is fully transparent, is based on a unified standard, and is against war," he said.

"We are ready for convening technical sessions with the participation of military experts between the two countries, without the need for any intermediary," the foreign minister added.

He described the statements of some Western officials as baseless and referred to Tehran's recurrent efforts to help bring about a ceasefire to the war. "We stand ready to help establish a truce."

"I believe Ukraine had better be careful not be influenced by some radical politicians in Europe," the top diplomat said.

The Ukrainian foreign minister, in turn, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on not dispatching arms for use in the Ukraine war, saying talks between technical military delegations of the two countries are important.

He pointed to Ukraine's independence in its foreign relations and said his country does not take action under the influence of others.

The chief diplomat explained the consequences of war in his country and said Ukraine strives to safeguard the security and activities of embassies in accordance with international conventions.

The Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York also issued a statement explaining Iran's position on Ukraine.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's position on the Ukraine situation is clear, consistent, and unwavering, which has been pronounced since the start of the conflict. From the beginning, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that all UN Members must fully respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter as well as applicable international law, including sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity. As a country that has experienced 8-year imposed war and aggression, Iran opposes any conflict or war anywhere in the world, including in Ukraine," the mission said in the statement.

Is Germany playing with fire on Iran?

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – With Germany pushing for new sanctions on Iran, talks in Vienna over reviving the tattered 2015 Iran deal are now coming up against new hurdles. Germany may inadvertently spell the death of these talks through ill-advised action.

The Vienna talks over resuscitating the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have once again come to the fore after Germany voiced willingness to work with the European Union to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Sunday that Berlin and Brussels are mulling whether to designate the IRGC amid a barrage of German statements criticizing Iran for dealing with weeks-long unrest in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini.

Baerbock told ARD broadcaster that "I made it clear last week that we will launch another package of sanctions, that we will examine how we can also list the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization."

The remarks came a few days after the German foreign minister put out a statement vowing a resetting of relations with Iran. "There can be no 'business as usual' in our bilateral relations with a state that treats the lives of its own citizens with such contempt," she said in the statement.

She added, "The last few weeks have been used for intensive efforts to critically review the few remaining instruments in the area of trade and finance, including with regard to business relations that still exist with Iranian banks. Where bilateral dialogue is still taking place, for example in the area of economy and energy, we will suspend this. The same goes for German cultural institutions and teachers working in Iran – we will be significantly reducing their presence."

Germany taking the lead on designating the IRGC will further complicate the Vienna talks as the IRGC designation by the U.S. has been one of the thorniest issues over the course of the nuclear talks. It impeded the promised economic benefits envisioned in the JCPOA for Iran. During the talks, the EU put forth a proposal aimed at circumventing the U.S. designation of the IRGC. But the proposal is yet to be agreed upon by both sides. In a sense, it is expected that the issue will be worked out sometime around the end of November, or maybe later.

While the Vienna talks remain at a standstill for a number of reasons, the EU sanctions on the IRGC would add another horrendous obstacle to reviving the JCPOA, if not spelling the end of the JCPOA.

Aside from the complications such a move would produce for the talks, Iran will almost

undoubtedly take reciprocal moves as it considers the IRGC an official institution. In his Monday presser, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani hinted at that, saying that designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization is illegal.

"Statements by Germany's officials about the decision to impose sanctions on the IRGC are in continuation of these [European] countries' irresponsible actions in relation to the Islamic Republic of Iran and emanate from their wrong approach to the Iranian nation and government," Kanaani said.

He added, "The IRGC is an official military organization of Iran and such a move is illegal. We hope that the German government and other states take note of their unconstructive measures and refrain from sacrificing their bilateral interests for transient political interests and emotional decisions."

IRGC detains tanker smuggling 11 million liters of fuel

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy detained a foreign tanker smuggling 11 million liters of fuel in the Persian Gulf, Mehr reported on Monday.

Mojtaba Qahramani, the chief justice of Hormozgan province, has said forces from the first naval district of the IRGC seized the oil tanker.

The tanker was seized after a month of careful technical and intelligence work, Qahramani said, adding that the captain and crew of the tanker are held to complete investigation into the matter and conducing due legal procedures.

Over the current year calendar year, which began on March 21,2022, Iran has announced several times the detention of foreign ships involved in smuggling Iranian fuel.

In August, the Iranian authorities seized a vessel carrying 277,000 liters of smuggled fuel in the waters around Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf. The smugglers intended to transfer the consignment to one of the

Persian Gulf littoral states, IRIB reported.

Twelve crew members of the vessel were detained for investigation. The smuggled fuel was worth 61 billion rials (about $200,000), the report added.

Jalal Amini, head of the anti-trafficking police, said in July that smuggled goods worth 2 trillion rials (nearly $7.1 million) had been confiscated across the country in line with the plan to combat the smuggling of goods and currency.

In April, the chief justice of Hormozgan announced the detention by the IRGC Navy of a foreign ship carrying 220,000 liters of smuggled fuel in the Persian Gulf.

"In coordination with the judicial authorities, the Zulfiqar Naval Brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps monitored and arrested a foreign ship carrying smuggled fuel in the waters of the Persian Gulf," Mojtaba Qahramani, head of Hormozgan province's justice department, said in a press statement.

He added, "During the inspection of this ship, more than 220,000 liters of smuggled fuel were seized and 11 members of the foreign crew were arrested."

Qahramani said at the time the arrest of the smugglers would help complete the "investigation and legal procedures".

In May, the commander of the border guards in the coastal province announced the seizure of another ship smuggling 550,000 liters of fuel.

Colonel Hossein Dahki said in a press statement that "during an operation in the protected area, the border guards at the Bandar Langeh naval base, in cooperation with the border guards in Bushehr province, succeeded in spotting a ship carrying smuggled fuel to the east of Maru Island."

"During the inspection of the ship, the border guards were able to find 550,000 liters of smuggled diesel, and arrested 7 smugglers in this regard," he stated, adding plans are underway to combat smuggling of fuel and goods, clean up polluted areas, and fight smugglers across the border strip in the coastal province.

SPORTS

Carlos Queiroz laments his players' absence

Frome Page 1 ▸ "I need to think about that because, at this moment, more players must train here with us or play," he said. "But if they stay five weeks with no football, it's impossible to take them into consideration. Really, I don't understand why something happened because we've been there and thanked the Al Ahli club for their cooperation. The only players in Qatar football who are not released are the Iranian players from Al Ahli. All the other players, including Australian, Algerian, and Tunisian, were released for their national teams, but Al Ahli did not allow them to come here."

"Esteghlal's players are not here also. So, I just can say that our preparation process could be better," he said.

Iran looking for fourth gold at Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2022 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup on Tuesday with a match against Paraguay. The Persians are looking to win the title for the fourth time.

In its eleventh edition, the Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup is the most prestigious annual competition in the sand version of the game. The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup takes place every two years.

Team Melli were drawn to Group B along with the U.S., Japan and Paraguay. Group A consists of the UAE, Brazil, Spain and Saudi Arabia.

After a round-robin group stage, the top two teams from each group will meet in the semifinals and subsequent finals. The third and fourth place teams will compete for places 5th-8th. All matches take place on the main stadium at Kite Beach in Dubai.

"We know how strong our opponents are. We played Japan and Paraguay in the tournament last year and the U.S. have been added to the group," Iran interim coach Ali Naderi said.

"Iran are fully prepared for the tournament and we want to steal the show with our young players in Dubai," he added.

Iran's fixture:

Tue, Nov 1: Iran v Paraguay

Wed, Nov. 2: Iran v The U.S.

Thur, Nov. 3: Iran v Japan

Placement or Semifinal / Final matches: Nov 4, 5, 6 (two matchdays TBD).

Iran squad:

Moslem Mesigar, Mostafa Kiani, Mohammad Masoumizadeh, Ali Mirshekari, Mehdi Mirjalili, Movahed Mohammadpour, Saeid Piramoon, Mohammad Ahmadzadeh, Mohammadali Mokhtari, Amirhossein Akbari, Mehdi Shirmohammadi and Hamid Behzadpour

Russia are the most successful team, having won four tournaments.

Iran have won the title three times.

The Intercontinental Cup is second only to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup as the largest and most prestigious event on the international beach soccer circuit, featuring an exclusive assembly of the world's very best national teams from each continent.

Since the World Cup is a biannual competition, this event is now the most important annual international beach soccer tournament.

Rostamian to compete at ISSF President's Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian shooter Hanyeh Rostamian will participate at the 2022 ISSF President's Cup in Egypt.

Rostamian secured her Olympics quota last week after finishing in fifth place in the 25 meters Pistol Women.

Athletes from 42 nations will represent 43 ISSF Member Federations from all the continents in the Cup. They are among the 12 top-ranked in individual Olympic events according to the 2022 World Ranking.

The competition will take place in Cairo, Egypt, on November 28 to December 4.

The winners of each event will receive the Golden Target – award to the best athlete of the year.

By the end of the 2022 ISSF World Championships in Shotgun and Rifle/Pistol Germany is supposed to have the biggest representation with twelve already qualified athletes. France has ten athletes among the top ranked, Italy – nine, the Czech Republic – eight and Korea – seven.

The U.S. can increase the number of qualified athletes from current six to eight at the Panamerican Championship that starts in Lima, Peru, on November 5, 2022. Six athletes will represent Great Britain. Hungary, India, Ukraine, Serbia and Slovakia have five qualified athletes each.

Iran to play Uzbekistan in 2022 Asian Water Polo C'ship opener

TEHRAN – Iran will play Uzbekistan in the opening match of the 2022 Asian Water Polo Championship on November 7.

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

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

Japan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuwait are in Group B.

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

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

Iran secure Pot 1 in AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran are in Pot 1 of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024 Qualifiers.

All eyes will be on Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday for the official draw ceremony of the Qualifiers Round 1, featuring 29 teams looking to impact the tournament after a four-year pandemic-induced break.

The competition kicks off with the teams competing in eight groups in Round 1 from April 22 to 30, 2023. The eight Round 1 group winners will then play the Round 2 Qualifiers in two groups from September 16 to 24, 2023.

The Qualifiers are to be contested in centralized venues across Guam, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Four teams from Round 2 will advance to the Finals, which is scheduled to be held in Indonesia from April 7 to 20, 2024.

They will be joined by the top three teams from the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 as well as host Indonesia, who will participate in the Qualifiers but will remain unranked during the draw.

Defending champions and four-time winners Japan, runners-up and three-time champions DPR Korea, and third-placed China PR are the teams from 2019 to qualify directly for the Finals.

Seedings for Round 1 are based on the rankings of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Thailand 2019, which has since been rebranded as the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™.

The 29 teams will have their names drawn from four seeding pots with the eight host nations for the Qualifiers placed in a separate host pot, listed below according to their seeding:

Pot 1 (teams ranked 4-11): Australia, Korea Republic, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Iran, the Philippines

Pot 2 (ranked 12-19): Chinese Taipei, India, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Malaysia

Pot 3 (ranked 20-27): Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Northern Mariana Islands

Pot 4 (ranked 28 and below): Bahrain, Bhutan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Cambodia

Hosts Pot: Guam, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam

Loading, unloading in Qeshm ports hit over 4m tons

TEHRAN - Over four million tons of goods have been unloaded and loaded in the ports of Qeshm Island in southern Iran during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21-October 22), a maritime official said.

During the said period, 4,227,286 tons of goods were unloaded and loaded in the ports, according to Qeshm Ports and Maritime Organization's Director.

Ali Ashtari noted that during the same period last year, 3,156,245 tons of goods were unloaded and loaded in the ports of Qeshm Island.

Qeshm Island with 150,000 population is located in the south of Hormozgan province and in the Persian Gulf.

Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

Based on the data released by the Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the petroleum sector grew by 22.5 percent.

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

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

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

IMIDRO conducting mining development projects worth over $2b

TEHRAN – Subsidiaries of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) are currently conducting mining development projects worth over $2 billion across the country, IRIB reported.

According to IMIDRO, the organization is implementing and completing 25 major development projects across the country which will create job opportunities for 5,500 people when completed.

Equipping mines and establishing lead and zinc factories, developing steel production units, building a gold processing plant, and a number of development projects by the National Iranian Copper Industry Company (NICICO) are among the key projects which are going to go operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023), according to IMIDRO.

Back in July, IMIDRO Head Vajihollah Jafari said his organization was going to complete 12 semi-finished mining industry projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Jafari noted that the mentioned projects were in various fields including copper, steel, lead, zinc, ferrochrome, coal, hydrated lime, and phosphate.

As the major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran, IMIDRO has been playing a significant role in developing the mining industry in the country. The organization has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper, cement and mineral exploitation fields.

IMIDRO's strong will for materializing the domestic production target bore fruit as the organization has recently announced that the domestic production and indigenizing technology in the mining sector has saved Iran nearly $1 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

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

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

South Pars refineries annual overhaul completed

TEHRAN - Annual overhaul operations of Iran's South Pars gas field refineries have been completed, according to the managing director of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) which operates the mentioned refineries.

Ahmad Bahoush said the overhaul operations of the 13 South Pars refineries have been completed and the complex is now completely ready for the steady supply of gas through the cold season, Shana reported.

Pointing to SPGC's important achievements in this year's overhaul program, the official said that all the parts and equipment used in this year's overhaul operations have been manufactured and supplied by domestic knowledge-based companies and manufacturers.

"The current stable and continuous production in the South Pars Gas complex has been achieved with the efforts and dedication our dear personnel; We hope that in the shadow of empathy and teamwork, we can take bigger steps in the direction of serving the society and prosperity of the country," the official said.

Earlier this year, Bahoush had said that the production at South Pars refineries is going to increase after the overhaul program of the complex is completed.

In an interview with Shana in late July, Bahoush stated that last year more than 195 billion cubic meters of natural gas was processed in this complex.

Referring to the SPGC plans to sustain and increase production in the coming years, the official said: "connecting all refineries of the complex to backup electricity, providing quality mechanical spare parts at the right time, providing spare export compressors, providing parts related to rotating equipment, and timely providing consumable chemicals are among the most important things in the sustainability of production which we plan to increase in the coming years."

He further underlined the significant role of the SPGC in meeting domestic needs and increasing the export of natural gas to neighboring countries and noted: "Currently, the SPGC's share in the country's gas production is more than 75 percent, and with the production and export of by-products such as propane, butane, gas condensate and granulated sulfur this complex plays a very strategic role in the supply of such important products as well."

SPGC is operating 14 gas refineries in Southern Iran that are currently processing the gas extracted from the country's giant South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

South Pars is currently divided into 24 standard phases on the Iranian side and is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

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

Tehran, Astana to ink MOU on transportation co-op

Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi (L) and Kazakh Trade and Integration Minister Zhumangarin Serik talk to the press after meeting in Tehran on Monday.

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi said Iran and Kazakhstan have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop cooperation in transportation and transit sectors, IRIB reported.

Qasemi made the remarks after a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan Zhumangarin Serik in Tehran on Monday.

According to the minister, the MOU covers cooperation in a variety of areas including smartening of customs, equalization of tariffs, and facilitation of visa issuance for Iranian drivers and businessmen.

Referring to a recent visit of Kazakhstan's Trade Minister to Iran's Shahid Rajaei port, Qasemi said: "Kazakhstan is going to cooperate with Iran in rail, road, sea and air transportation and cargo transfer through the North-South and East-West corridors."

Kazakhstan eyes establishing export terminal in southern Iran

Prior to meeting Qasemi, Zhumangarin Serik has said his country was seeking to cooperate with Iran in establishing an export terminal in the Islamic Republic's southern Bandar Abbas Port.

Serik who arrived in Tehran on Monday for a two-day visit, told the press that he will negotiate with the Iranian authorities about participation in the construction of a large export terminal for transiting his country's products through Iran.

Stating that his country is looking for the development of export routes for its agricultural products to the Indian subcontinent, the official added: "Our proposal to Iran is not only about building a grain terminal, but also includes related structures and equipment, including wheat and flour warehouses, cold stores and equipment for storing meat."

This Kazakh official stated that in case of reaching an agreement with Iran, the private sector of his country will pay for the implementation of this project.

During his visit to Iran, Zhumangarin is also scheduled to meet with Agriculture Minister Javad Sadatinejad.

The Kazakh delegation will also learn more about the capabilities and facilities of the Iranian logistics, transportation, and transit sector in meetings with officials of the mentioned sectors.

In early October, Kazakhstan Prime Minister Alikhan Ashanuly Smaiylov emphasized the importance of improving the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana in the oil swap, as well as industry, agriculture, scientific and cultural sectors.

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 on Thursday.

Mokhber, for his part, said that the level of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan can quickly reach three billion dollars, considering the existing capacities of the two countries.

The Kazakh prime minister welcomed the proposal of Iran's first vice president and stated that the necessary fields and capacities of the two countries are ready to raise the level of trade exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan and reach three billion dollars a year.

Mokhber then announced Iran's readiness to send mining companies to Kazakhstan and added: "Tehran is ready to cooperate with Astana in port, dam construction, hydropower plant construction, knowledge-based and technical and engineering services."

ICCIMA calls for participation of private sector in budget drafting process

TEHRAN –Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called on the government to take the necessary measures for ensuring the participation of private sector representatives in the process of drafting the national budget bill for the next year Iranian (begins on March 21, 2023).

As the ICCIMA portal reported, Members of the ICCIMA Business Environment Improvement Council decided in a meeting on Monday to send a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi to demand the presence of the representatives of ICCIMA, Iran Chamber of Guilds (ICG) and Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) in national budget drafting meetings.

In this meeting, the council reviewed President Raisi's decree for the official beginning of the drafting of the next year's national budget bill.

The president's order, issued in early October, included five annexes that cover the schedule for drafting the bill, financial regulations of the budget bill, instructions and budget forms of executive bodies, comprehensive instructions for performance-based budgeting, and budget instructions for public companies.

Raisi stressed creating economic stability, ensuring justice, making the governance system more efficient and

reforming the budget structure, implementing practical development plans, as well as implementing active labor market policies in the process of budget bill preparation.

ICCIMA has continuously criticized the government's approach in ignoring the capacities and experiences of the private sector in drafting the country's budget bill, calling for more active participation of the private sector experts in the process of drafting the bill.

Back in January, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie criticized several aspects of the government's proposed budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year, saying: "The private sector has been completely absent from the budget drafting process. Unlike in previous years when the private sector was formally invited to meet with those involved in preparing the budget bill, this year private sector was completely ignored in the process."

TEDPIX gains 15,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 15,368 points to 1.269 million on Monday.

As IRNA reported, over 6.054 billion securities worth 28.225 trillion rials (about $97.5 million) were traded at the TSE on the mentioned day.

The first market's index rose 10,278 points, and the second market's index gained 33,959 points.

TEDPIX had lost 69,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. 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).

Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has unveiled a comprehensive support package to encourage activities in the capital market as shareholders are getting reluctant to invest in the market.

As announced by the SEO Office of Public Relations, one of the major measures considered in this package is the insurance of shareholders' capital and dividends over the next year.

The comprehensive support package of the capital market, which was designed last week and has been reviewed by the country's economic authorities, was put in effect as of Saturday morning.

PMO postpones ICOPMAS 2022

TEHRAN- Iran's 14th Biennial International Conference on Coasts, Ports and Marine Structures (ICOPMAS 2022) which was due to be held in Tehran from October 31 to November 2, has been postponed due to some technical issues and the new schedule for the event will be announced soon.

"Considering the requests of the participants, presenters of articles and members of the scientific committee, the 14th International Conference on Coasts, Ports and Marine Structures, which was supposed to be held from October 31 to November 2," Ports and Maritime Organization (MPO) of Iran said in a statement on Sunday.

UN tells Israel to destroy nuclear weapons

from page 1 ▶ It further called on Israel "to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test, or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafe guarded nuclear facilities under the full scope of Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step toward enhancing peace and security."

Despite the extensive Western propaganda and hysteria focusing on Iran's nuclear program, which the IAEA has on different occasions deemed as peaceful, the resolution highlights how Israel is the real threat to the region.

On Friday a proposal for a nuclear-free zone West Asia was also accepted by the First Committee with 170 votes, including Iran. Not surprisingly perhaps, Israel was the only entity to, once again, oppose the text as it has similarly done at the United Nations many times before. The United States, Cameron, Comoros, and Tanzania were the only four nations to abstain.

Iran's Representative at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, Heidar Ali Balouji, slammed Israel over its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and enormous conventional military spending.

"In addition to its WMDs, the large arsenal of sophisticated offensive conventional weapons of the Israeli regime continues to threaten the peace and security of the region and beyond. This regime is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign assistance since World War II," Balouji said.

"Last year, Israel with 5.2 percent of its GDP spent $24.3 billion [on military] and is among the top five military spenders in West Asia," he added.

In 1986 Mordechai Vanunu, a low-level technician at Israel's Dimona nuclear plant, hit the headlines when he exposed Israel's nuclear secrets to the world. The regime sent him to

jail. In 2004 he completed an 18-year sentence, most of which was spent in solitary confinement. However, strict conditions were attached to his release, including a ban on leaving Israel, a ban on entering the Palestinian territories and a ban on speaking to foreign journalists.

Since his release, Vanunu has, at least, twice served jail terms after convictions for alleged parole violations.

Not only is Israel in possession of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the regime has also been dumping its nuclear and radioactive waste in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinians reside. According to many reports emerging over the past years, there are increasing fears of high rates of various types of cancers, and congenital malformations in the southern West Bank regions.

Israel has turned the Palestinian towns and villages into a dumping ground for its nuclear and radioactive waste.

Further research in the Palestinian city of al-Khalil shows that residents there are suffering from radioactive pollution, with reports indicating that the radiation comes from the Israeli nuclear facilities and the storage of nuclear waste in the area.

It may also be a result of weapons containing depleted uranium used against the Palestinians.

Based to many studies and researches, is it widely believed that there is a strong link between radiation and nuclear waste from the Israeli Dimona reactor (where construction on the nuclear weapons plant was completed in 1963) and increase in cases of cancer in the southern West Bank.

The same areas in the southern occupied West Bank did not witness any cases of cancer before the Israeli plant began manufacturing nuclear weapons. There are now many Palestinians suffering from cancer and congenital malformations as well as recurrent miscarriages of women.

According to one investigation by the Arabic Post, the Israeli authorities did not heed any official warnings by Palestinian officials, who expressed strong concern about the dangers of high levels of nuclear radiation in the atmosphere and groundwater of areas in the southern West Bank, in particular the city of al-Khalil (Hebron), which records annually record levels of cancer and fetal abnormalities.

In December 2021, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh accused Israel of burying dangerous nuclear waste such as burnt oils, chemical and electronic waste and others in the Palestinian territories; this constitutes a long-term threat to the Palestinian environment (soil, water, air and wildlife), in addition to the outbreak of cancer cases and congenital malformations.

"There are 6,251 cancer patients, which is a high percentage compared to neighboring countries," Shtayyeh explained.

He has also attributed the reason to the fact that the Israelis use the occupied territories as a dumping ground for nuclear waste.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani has said the advanced Israeli nuclear program poses a serious threat to international security and stability.

"The advanced nuclear military program of the apartheid regime of Israel and the regime's continued reluctance to put its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards and not to join the non-proliferation treaty is a serious threat to international security and the non-proliferation regime," Kanaani said in a post on social media.

The spokesperson has also urged the IAEA to fulfill its mandate in this regard.

It is worthy to note that the Israel regime is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, owing to its deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear policy. It has repeatedly rebuffed inspections of its military nuclear facilities, not to mention refusing to sign the NPT.

However, Iran is a signatory to the NPT and has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is entirely civilian and subject to the most stringent UN oversight in the world.

The policy of double standards is very clear. When it comes to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, Israel is exempted from accountability. As a signatory to the NPT, Iran has a peaceful program for energy and medical purposes, yet it is subject to the most stringent inspection program in the history of the IAEA. However, the West has imposed the most painful sanctions regime on the Islamic Republic.

Israel, which has hundreds of nuclear warheads is not subject to any punitive measures. On the contrary, the regime is endlessly rewarded with more military weapons (paid for by American taxpayers), more money as well as more diplomatic and political support.

WORLD HEADLINES

Halloween in Saudi Arabia: Ignorance under mask of modernity

from page 1 ▶ The "#Weekend_horror" and "costume of evil" topped Twitter with lightning speed.

It also once again ignited controversy over what is halal or haram to join the West in celebrating non-Islamic events.

Some have said that Saudi Arabia is following the latest trends and that it is harmful to enjoy Halloween or any other celebration.

People opined that a country that doesn't allow Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) celebrates Halloween. Similar criticism is being issued by Muslims around the world.

In addition, some believe that Halloween festivities in Saudi Arabia are meant to add a veneer of modernity to the ignorance embedded in the unbridled Westoxification adopted by the Saudi government in a society with deep Islamic roots.

Lula's stunning comeback to power

Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva triumphed over incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro Sunday in Brazil's presidential runoff vote.

Da Silva had 50.9% of the ballots with 99.9% of the votes counted. Election officials said Lula's victory was a mathematical certainty.

"They tried to bury me alive and here I am," President-elect Da Silva said Sunday.

The far-right Bolsonaro did not acknowledge defeat on Sunday. However, a day before the runoff vote he said, "There is not the slightest doubt. Whoever has more votes, takes it [the election]."

While DaSilva is widely known for lifting millions of Brazilians out of poverty during his presidential tenure, Bolsonaro's tenure in office was marked by his far-right politics, his mocking of the coronavirus, the deforesting of the Amazon rainforest and rampant inflation.

Da Silva has promised to improve the country's social welfare system and establish a ministry to address the concerns of the country's indigenous population, but all that may be an uphill battle with the inroads conservatives have made in Brazil's Congress.

The 77-year-old Da Silva's victory is a stunning turn of events for the former president who was at the country's helm from 2003 to 2010. He would later serve 18 months in prison on corruption charges, but those charges were subsequently overturned by the Supreme Court.

Lebanon president leaves with no replacement, crisis deepens

President Michel Aoun left Lebanon's presidential palace Sunday, marking the end of his six-year term without a replacement, leaving the small nation in a political vacuum that is likely to worsen its historic economic meltdown.

As Aoun's term ends, the country is being run by a caretaker government after Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati failed to form a new Cabinet following May 15 parliamentary elections. Aoun and his supporters warn that such a government doesn't have full power to run the country, saying that weeks of "constitutional chaos" lay ahead.

In a speech outside the palace, Aoun told thousands of supporters that he has accepted the resignation of Mikati's government. The move is likely to further deprive the caretaker administration of legitimacy and worsen existing political tensions in the country.

Mikati responded shortly afterward with a statement from his office saying that his government will continue to perform its duties in accordance with the constitution.

Thousands commemorate Italy's fascist dictator Mussolini

Several thousand black-clad fascist sympathizers chanted and sang in praise of the late Italian dictator Benito Mussolini on Sunday as they marched to his crypt, 100 years after Mussolini entered Rome and completed a bloodless coup that gave rise to two decades of fascist rule.

The crowd of 2,000 to 4,000 marchers, many sporting fascist symbols and singing hymns from Italy's colonial era, was more numerous than in the recent past, as the fascist nostalgics celebrated the centenary of the March on Rome.

On Oct. 28, 1922, black-shirted fascists entered the Italian capital, launching a putsch that culminated two days later when Italy's king handed Mussolini the mandate to start a new government.

The crowd in Predappio, Mussolini's birthplace and final resting place in the northern Emilia-Romagna region, also was apparently emboldened by the fact that a party with neo-fascist roots is heading an Italian government for the first time since World War II.

Organizers warned participants, who arrived from as far away as Rome, Belgium, and the United States, not to flash the Roman salute used by the Fascists, or they would risk prosecution. Still, some couldn't resist as the crowd stopped outside the cemetery where Mussolini is laid to rest to listen to prayers and greetings from Mussolini's great-granddaughter, Orsola.

Death toll from bridge collapse in India's Gujarat rises to 132

The death toll from the collapse of a colonial-era suspension bridge in India's western Gujarat state has risen to 132, according to officials, as rescue workers worked through the night, combing the Machhu River for survivors.

Harsh Sanghavi, Gujarat's home minister, told reporters that the death toll rose from 68 on Sunday to 132 early on Monday as search operations continued.

Gujarat's Information Department said about 177 people had now been rescued, while 19 were receiving medical care.

Poland, South Korea to cooperate on nuclear power project

Seoul and Warsaw signed outline agreements to develop nuclear power in Poland, ministries from both countries said on Monday, as Poland strives to phase out coal and lower its carbon emissions and South Korea seeks to revive its nuclear industry.

Poland's ZE PAK (ZEEP.WA) and PGE (PGE.WA) and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) will assess the viability of building four 1,400-megawatt nuclear reactors in Patnow, central Poland, using South Korean technology, the South Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said in a joint statement with the Polish Ministry of State Assets.

The companies, with government backing, intend to prepare a preliminary development plan for the plant by the end of this year, they said in a statement.

Since the election this year of President Yoon Suk-yeol, who pledged to revive the country's nuclear power industry, South Korea has stepped up efforts to win nuclear power plant export orders.

If a final deal is signed, it will be "an achievement supported by the Korean government's firm determination and policy to export nuclear plants," Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Chang-Yang Lee said.

During his visit to Korea Polish State Assets Minister Jacek Sasin also discussed enhancing Poland's defence partnership with South Korea, he said on Twitter.

"We welcome the information that ZE PAK and PGE have entered into talks with KHNP, which will further strengthen relations between Poland and South Korea," Sasin was quoted as saying in a statement.

ZE PAK, owned by billionaire Zygmunt Solorz, produces energy mainly from lignite, but plans to phase out coal by 2030 and produce only energy from renewable sources afterwards.

Monday's agreements follow on from an announcement on Friday when Warsaw said U.S. firm Westinghouse Electric Co will build the country's first nuclear power plant in northern Poland.

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If a final deal is signed, it will be "an achievement supported by the Korean government's firm determination and policy to export nuclear plants," Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Chang-Yang Lee said.

During his visit to Korea Polish State Assets Minister Jacek Sasin also discussed enhancing Poland's defence partnership with South Korea, he said on Twitter.

"We welcome the information that ZE PAK and PGE have entered into talks with KHNP, which will further strengthen relations between Poland and South Korea," Sasin was quoted as saying in a statement.

ZE PAK, owned by billionaire Zygmunt Solorz, produces energy mainly from lignite, but plans to phase out coal by 2030 and produce only energy from renewable sources afterwards.

Monday's agreements follow on from an announcement on Friday when Warsaw said U.S. firm Westinghouse Electric Co will build the country's first nuclear power plant in northern Poland.

Puzzling minarets worth visiting once!

from page 1 ▶ Such a theory, however, has its skeptics and is dismissed as a mere coincidence under the guise that most buildings also have such vibrations (although on a smaller scale) and it's only the height of the minarets that make it so visible in this particular case.

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its maze-like bazaars, and roaming in beautiful gardens among hospitable people.

Hundreds of ancient sites in Sistan-Baluchestan need demarcation

TEHRAN—Legal boundaries of many historical sites and monuments in Sistan-Baluchestan need to be demarcated to receive better protection and preservation, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

"As of now, only a few historical properties in the province have legal and specific boundaries, out of roughly 1,600 sites and historical monuments identified," Mojtaba Sa'adatian said on Monday.

A total of 1,680 historical properties, including historical buildings and sites, are identified in this province, he explained.

There is not much problem defining historical monument boundaries, and so far 40 buildings have been demarcated, but among the ancient sites, only Bampur and the Burnt City have been demarcated, he added.

Defining boundaries for historical monuments has always been a challenge, he noted.

Compared to other provinces, Sistan-Baluchestan province does less building construction, but in Bampur, for example, there are some residential houses located near the ancient site, which could be solved either by buying the houses of the owners or by giving them the land in exchange, he mentioned.

A severe drought in the province has prevented farming and agriculture work from being done, so farmers have not challenged the province's tourism directorate over

demarcating ancient sites or agricultural lands, he stated.

A budget needs to be allocated to the demarcation projects as well, he added.

The collective province —Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south— accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword in the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because it is located in a strategic transit location, particularly Chabahar, which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and the Lut desert.

Former royal shelter to be restored for sightseers

TEHRAN – A remote structure, which was once a summer royal residence in the Alborz mountain range, northwest of the Iranian capital Tehran, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

The structure, which is temporarily ceded to the private sector, is planned to be turned into an accommodation center after being fully restored, CHTN quoted Fereydun Mohammadi as saying.

However, to make the most of this historical building, tourism infrastructure needs to be improved in the area, the official added.

It is expected that this complex will be put in operation within a year if the infrastructure is provided, he noted.

The structure, which can hardly be called a palace now, was once a shelter for Qajar monarchs and companions who went hunting in the surrounding foothills.

The monument is located in Shahrestanak, a picturesque village in the Asara district of Alborz province, situated some 90 km from Tehran.

Alborz province is surrounded by Mazandaran, Tehran, Markazi, and Qazvin provinces. Its name is driven by the Alborz Mountains. A significant part of the mountains is located in the northern part of the province.

Historical resources and documents, as well as archeological studies, indicate that Alborz has a rich culture dating back to prehistoric times.

Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System not in good condition, devotee of cultural heritage says

TEHRAN – A cultural heritage enthusiast has warned about what he called an unstable situation of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, saying its eastern wall is "not in a good condition".

"A devotee of cultural heritage has warned about the unstable situation of the western wall," Mehr reported on Sunday.

Speaking to ISNA, Ahmad Shamsabadi said the eastern part of the ancient site may be demolished at any moment.

"Eastern wall of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System may be destroyed at any moment, and this problem cannot be concealed," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shamsabadi criticized relevant officials in charge of protecting cultural heritage, saying the continuation of these indifferences on the issue may result in its destruction.

Also, Shamsabadi reminded people about issues with the western wall of the magnificent site. "Probable landslide in the western wall of the site cannot be solved by reducing the weight of overlooking houses. Moreover, it is a time-consuming project."

In addition, Shamsabadi said any action on the site should be based on careful and thorough studies.

"It requires a national determination as such a World

Heritage site belongs to the entire humans and we are responsible for this heritage to pass on to the next generation," he concluded.

Last November, the UNESCO-registered site closed its doors amid safety concerns after its western side was announced to be "unstable".

The ancient hydraulic system comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king.

The property is as rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system). The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian know-how; it was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

"The hydraulic system has been considered a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization," according to the UN cultural body.

Furthermore, one of its main canals is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert.

UNESCO says that the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System demonstrates outstanding universal value as in its present form, it dates from the 3rd century CE, probably on older bases from the 5th century BC. It is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional.

Outstanding Universal Value

The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional. Moreover, it is a homogeneous hydraulic system that is rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and its constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system).

According to the UN cultural body, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow; it was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

It is considered by some as a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization. The Gargar canal is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert. The site sits in an urban and rural landscape specific to the expression of its value.

Ali Sadr cave wasn't an art studio for prehistorical humans, researchers find

TEHRAN—A team of researchers has found that previously discovered paintings on the rock walls of Ali Sadr cave are not associated with ancient people.

Earlier in June, some Iranian spelunkers and archaeologists publicized the discovery of modest artworks within the dark chambers of the gigantic water-filled cavern, which is widely believed to date from the Jurassic era.

At that time, Iranian archaeologist Esmaeil Hemmati-Azandaryani believed those paintings probably belonged to prehistoric times.

"According to the experts and archaeologists who examined the paintings on the wall of Ali Sadr cave, those paintings are not ancient," ILNA quoted Ali Malmir, Hamedan province's tourism chief, as saying on Monday.

"Seemingly, those paintings were drawn by local people in the past, and they are not prehistoric at all," Malmir said.

As mentioned by Hemmati-Azandaryani, the paintings were initially found in a place close to travelers last year when we were conducting three-dimensional photographs of the cave.

"Spelunkers and archaeologists have discovered about 25 to 30 motifs in different color spectrums of green, orange, yellow, and black," Hemmati-Azandaryani said.

"These paintings are of high significance. They depict archers hunting deer, deer, beasts of prey, as well as human beings riding on horse-like animals."

According to the archaeologist, based on preliminary studies, ocher flowers, some plants, or the blood of animals have been used as the pigments to draw. "However, more studies are needed to obtain more complete results and pigment analysis," he added.

Moreover, the archaeologist said there are many similar examples abroad, such as the ones in Lascaux caves in France and Altamira in Spain.

The gigantic cave embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several kilometers.

Sightseeing there is connected with traversing well-lit labyrinths of waterways via paddle boats, walking on subterranean islets, as well as observing rock carvings of hunting scenes, artifacts, paintings, and vessels that are associated with prehistorical troglodytes.

Ali Sadr can be reached after someone hour of riding from Hamadan through the countryside. There are usually shuttles and taxis as well. The most recommended time to pay a visit is early in the morning, particularly on Fridays or holidays, when it's likely to be more crowded.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. The country features a variety of mountain ranges and hundreds of caves, with Ali Sadr, Karaftu, Kataleh Khor, and Quri Qaleh amongst the most notable ones.

Rainmaking, an ancient ritual of drought time

TEHRAN – Throughout Iran, traditional rainmaking rituals are held in different forms based on the culture and religious beliefs of the locals.

North Khorasan province suffers from droughts and lacks water, so rainmaking is one of the major rituals held during spring and autumn there.

This tradition is still alive in the province, in which a group of people cooks Ash (a traditional slow-cooked, thick soup made with chickpeas, beans, noodles, and fresh herbs) or Halim, with special preparations and ceremonies, and shares it with poor residents or their families.

The ritual is customary when rainfall decreases, and it is performed by people who are engaged in agriculture, and those who are not engaged in agriculture carry out the ritual to enhance celebrations or to accompany gatherings.

Chomcheh Galin, Chomcheh Khatun, Baran Li, Kuseh Kuseh, and Kuseh Galin are different forms of the ritual, which are held in various parts of the province.

Chomcheh Galin is one of the popular forms, which is even held in other Iranian provinces.

In times of drought, children cover big wooden spoons with dolls' dresses and call them Chomcheh Galin, which is considered a rain doll. While singing songs and wishing for rain, they go to the houses in their town or village to collect the necessary items for cooking Ash.

When Ash is ready, it is given to all the people, who gather together to pray for rain.

Local travel insiders believe that traveling in North Khorasan is gaining momentum by degrees, creating lucrative opportunities for the tourism industry.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20km north.

Tehran meeting to discuss linguistic heritage

TEHRAN–A national conference focusing on linguistic heritage is scheduled to be held in Tehran on February 21, 2023, ILNA reported on Sunday.

Organized by the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the one-day event is planned to discuss dialectology, linguistic diversity, language taxonomy, and sociolinguistics, the report added.

Ancient Iranian languages and dialects, historical inscriptions, documents, and mythological studies will be discussed during the conference as well.

The selected articles of the conference will be published in reputable journals.

Persian language, also called Farsi, is a member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian language family. Old Persian, spoken until approximately the 3rd century BC, is attested by numerous inscriptions written in cuneiform, the most notable of which is the great monument of Darius I at Bisotun, western Iran.

Middle Persian, spoken from the 3rd century BC to the 9th century CE, is represented by numerous epigraphic texts of Sasanian kings, written in Aramaic script; there is also varied literature in Middle Persian embracing both the Zoroastrian and the Manichaean religious traditions. Pahlavi was the name of the official Middle Persian language of the Sassanian empire, according to Britannica.

Iranian universities among QS global sustainability ranking

From page 1 ▸ The new classification for sustainability is based on metrics in two categories, environmental impact, and social impact, with each contributing 50 percent of an institution's score.

Each category contains multiple sub-indicators, which QS calls "performance lenses". The environmental impact category aggregates three sub-indicators: sustainable institutions, sustainable education, and sustainable research.

The social impact category aggregates five sub-indicators of equality, knowledge exchange, the impact of education, employability, opportunities, and quality of life.

Iranian Universities in global rankings

According to the latest edition of the best global universities ranking released by U. S. News, 52 Iranian institutions were ranked among the best institutions worldwide.

Fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education.

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' contributions to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), listed 27 Iranian universities.

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Also, 59 Iranian universities have been listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

Some 57,675 foreign nationals from 133 countries are studying in Iranian universities, 30,600 of whom are studying in universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, while 25,000 others are receiving education at Azad University and about 2,000 in medical universities.

> The classification evaluates how universities are taking action to tackle the world's most pressing environmental and social issues.

Currently, foreign nationals constitute 1.64 percent of the country's student population, which is about 0.14 percent higher than the goal set by the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs, said in April.

Twenty-five percent of the foreign students studying in Iranian universities are Afghan nationals, he added.

Afghan students attend Iranian universities in three ways; some enter the university by participating in the national entrance exam of Iran, and some others receive admission from universities that have non-Iranian student licenses. The third group also attended the country's universities through scholarships, he explained.

Many of the Afghan students are studying master's and Ph.D. courses in Iranian universities, he added.

Epidemic influenza cases increase by 40%

TEHRAN – Influenza cases have now increased by 40 percent, which means that the diseases entered the epidemic phase, the head of the infectious diseases management center of the Ministry of Health has said.

The flu infection rate was less than one percent over the last five weeks, which is now increasing, as 50 percent of patients with severe colds are diagnosed with influenza, IRNA quoted Shahnam Arshi as saying on Monday.

The symptoms of viral diseases such as influenza, cold, and coronavirus are common, but high and sudden fever, severe muscle pain, and sore throat are the symptoms of influenza, and the affected person must take 5 to 7 days of complete rest to recover, he explained.

Pointing out that the influenza epidemic is currently ongoing in the country, he called on cancer patients, dialysis patients, transplant patients, diabetics, heart patients, the elderly, and children, to inject the flu vaccine, and other people must also wear masks in crowded places and observe the physical distance.

There are 4 types of seasonal influenza viruses, types A, B, C, and D. Influenza A and B viruses circulate and cause seasonal epidemics of disease.

Seasonal influenza is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, cough (usually dry), headache, muscle and joint pain, severe malaise (feeling unwell), sore throat, and a runny nose. The cough can be severe and can last 2 or more weeks.

Most people recover from fever and other symptoms within a week without requiring medical attention. But influenza can cause severe illness or death, especially in people at high risk. Illnesses range from mild to severe and even death.

Hospitalization and death occur mainly among high-risk groups. Worldwide, these annual epidemics are estimated to result in about 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness, and about 290 000 to 650 000 respiratory deaths.

> Seasonal influenza is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, cough (usually dry), headache, muscle and joint pain.

Pandemic preparedness plan

The World Health Organization says Iran has taken a holistic approach to developing its new national influenza pandemic preparedness plan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's new national influenza pandemic preparedness plan (IPPP) is comprehensive, multisectoral, and multidisciplinary, WHO said in a report published on October 14.

The national plan reflects lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, which were integrated in real-time, and includes other respiratory viruses with pandemic potential for a holistic approach.

In early 2019, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education began drafting its national IPPP, using the three-phased approach defined by WHO's essential steps in developing or updating a national pandemic influenza preparedness plan.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Ministry continued developing the IPPP and expanded the planning process by analyzing the gaps and challenges faced during the response and developing a real-time roadmap and implementation plan.

Ultimately, this will help secure the plan's endorsement by stakeholders and policy-makers.

Charity generates 900,000 job opportunities for the needy

TEHRAN – More than 900,000 job opportunities were created for financially-struggling individuals during the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), Morteza Bakhtiari, head of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, announced on Monday.

During the sixth development plan, we were required to create 350,000 jobs, however, we managed to create more than 900,000 job opportunities for the target community, and a significant number of clients became self-sufficient and no longer receive support, Bakhtiari added.

Since the beginning of the [current calendar] year which began on March 21, more than 180,000 job opportunities have been launched and 134,000 employment plans are in the process of receiving loans, he stated.

He went on to note that 6,000 elites, 52,000 school students, and about 730,000 college students are under the support of the foundation, which can guarantee the future of the country in various fields of science and technology.

Since the beginning of this year, about 50,000 cases of skill training have been provided to clients, he added.

The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has launched 3,285 projects to support job seekers over the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year which began on March 21.

In August, Bakhtiari announced that the Foundation will construct 32,000 housing units for the deprived rural residents by the end of the current year.

A total of 25 trillion rials (nearly $92 million) has been proposed to provide housing for the underprivileged in the budget bill for the current year.

The construction of 360,000 housing units has been entrusted to the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation under the "national housing plan", of which 120,000 will be built in villages and 240,000 units in cities.

Pointing to the memorandum of understanding between the Relief Foundation and Mostazafan Foundation of Islamic Revolution for the construction of 10,000 housing units by the end of this year, he noted that if the residential units are provided by the end of the year, the construction of 10,000 new houses will begin.

Also, 40,000 housing units will be built with the cooperation of the Basij, he concluded.

IRANIAN LANGUAGES AND SCRIPTS

Part 27

For instance, the word ahmi "I am" is spelled under Darius, but under Xerxes. There was therefore no "standard" Old Persian orthography, as only the royal and other professional scribes wrote the language and only for a short period.

The Avestan script

Avestan is written in an alphabetic script created on the basis of the Middle Persian Pahlavi script in order to record the sacred texts precisely the way they were pronounced at the time, presumably by select priests whose pronunciation was considered to be especially reliable.

All the Avestan texts are known to us only the way they were pronounced (recited or read) about 1000 C.E., the approximate date of the earliest known manuscripts.

This form differs already somewhat from that in which they were written down (perhaps sometime in the early 7th cent. C.E.), as several letters originally representing distinct sounds are no longer kept distinct in the extant manuscripts and, presumably, their archetype.

It is today tacitly assumed that the form of the letters in the manuscripts is that of the first manuscript (what Karl Hoffmann called "the Sasanian archetype"), but this need not be so.

We see considerable difference in ductus in the extant manuscripts, and it is not unlikely that the script was originally closer to that of the Pahlavi Psalter or other variants than to later Avestan and Book Pahlavi.

As the script developed, the letters that were identical with Pahlavi letters then changed as the Pahlavi letters changed, while the remaining letters stayed closer to their original form.

Letters may also have been added or omitted over time, or their value may have changed.

Transliteration systems for Avestan proliferated in the 19th century, but a standard was established with Christian Bartholomae's (1855-1925; q.v.) dictionary (1904), which lasted until Karl Hoffmann (1915-96; q.v.) showed that a more adequate system was needed; and today Hoffmann's principles are, with few exceptions, universally recognized.

In this system, each Avestan letter is rendered by one letter (with or without diacritics) in the Latin alphabet.

Scripts derived from Aramaic. During the Achaemenid period (549-330 B.C.E.), Aramaic ("Imperial Aramaic") was used as the chancellery language; and the Aramaic script was subsequently, at the latest by the Parthian period (ca. 210 B.C.E.-224 C.E.), adopted by several Iranian states: Parthia, the local Persian dynasty in Pars, Chorasmia, and Sogdiana. Over time, each script developed differently into its later standard form.

In the 3rd century C.E., under the first Sasanians, Manichean missionaries used a Syriac-Aramaic script, the Estrangelo script, to write the various languages they encountered in Iran and Central Asia. To express sounds not found in Syriac, they modified some letters and added others.

Christian missionaries brought another Syriac-Aramaic script, the Nestorian script, which was the standard in the Church of the East.

To be continued

Source: Iranica

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

Two herbal drugs that are effective in healing the symptoms of COVID-19 have been permitted to be produced domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that "none of these drugs are a cure for COVID-19, but they have effects to reduce the symptoms of this disease and should be further investigated."

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

The second drug is a syrup containing the extract of two herbs, which according to the clinical trial evidence provided if used, helps to improve the symptoms of fatigue and anorexia in patients with coronavirus, he noted.

تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و دارو ی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخل با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علایم کووید۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت وگو با ایرنا گفت:هیچکدام از این داروها داروی درمان کووید۱۹ نیستند اما اثراتی برای بهبود علایم این بیماری داشته اند و باید مراحل بررسی بیشتر را طی کنند.

وی گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

داروی دوم یک شربت حاوی عصاره دو گیاه است که با توجه به مدارک کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده، در صورت مصرف به بهبود علایم خستگی و بی اشتهایی در بیماران مبتلا به کووید ۱۹ کمک می کند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 31

New cases	213
New deaths	5
Total cases	7,557,650
Total deaths	144,576
New hospitalized patients	47
Patients in critical condition	133
Total recovered patients	7,331,950
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,366,880
Doses of vaccine injected	154,977,871

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NOVEMBER 1, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:28 Dawn: 5:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:27 (tomorrow)

Shahnameh Illustrations

Part 4

Future research should clarify if these conclusions pertain as well to later traditions of Shahnameh illustration.

Following the fall of both the Ilkhanids and the Injuids, Shahnameh manuscripts continued to be illustrated under the auspices of their successor dynasties the Mozaffarids (r. 1353-93) and Jalayerids (r. 1336-1432).

One such volume, dated 1393-94 and made in Shiraz, has now been identified as a probable royal Mozaffarid commission and with a possible contemporary political significance behind its illustrative program of 67 pictures.

While no intact Jalayerid Shahnameh has survived, a series of large-scale compositions of recognizable epic scenes, attributed to either Tabriz or Baghdad circa 1370-75 and preserved today as album paintings, attest to the pictorial ambitions of Jalayerid painters, doubtless under the patronage of the ruler Sheikh Ovays (d. 1374).

By the late 14th century, other works of Persian literature, particularly lyrical and romantic poems such as the Khamseh of Nezami and Khaju of Kerman began to rival Ferdowsi's epic for artistic attention and patronage.

That is not to say, however, that the illustrated Shahnameh ever fell totally out of favor; indeed, there is a substantial corpus of manuscripts dating from the 15th through the 17th centuries, although detailed research on these works has been in inverse proportion to their numbers.

Certainly fairly early on in the Timurid period (1370-1506) it was considered de rigueur for members of the ruling family to own their own personal copies of the epic poem "as a sort of status symbol or advertisement of regal power".

Thus three of Timur's grandsons—Baysonghor, Ebrahim Soltan, and Mohammad Juki—each commissioned such a volume in January 1430 in Herat, circa 1430-35 in Shiraz, and circa 1444 in Herat, respectively.

As with the ideological "reading" of the Great Mongol Shahnameh, it can be argued that these works expressed, through their choice and treatment of certain epic episodes, their princely patrons' individual concerns with particular epic themes (in Baysonghor's volume, issues of royal responsibilities and legitimate government; in Ebrahim Soltan's, traditions of hunting, feasting, and battle), as well as a specific dynastic conception or vision of kingship as expounded by Ferdowsi.

Compared with Ilkhanid and Mozaffarid manuscripts however, the Timurid Shahnameh project their "charge" through a relatively restricted selection of scenes: as a group the Baysonghor, Ebrahim Soltan and Mohammad Juki Shahnamehs total only 99 text illustrations.

The reduction in the pictorial programs of these princely and other manuscripts dating from the 1430s and 1440s may be seen as a portent for the total absence of any Shahnameh volumes illustrated during the reign of the last Timurid ruler Soltan Hossein Bayqara (1470-1506), at whose court lyrical poetry, and the classical Persian painting such literature inspired, reached its apex.

The production of illustrated Shahnameh manuscripts in the 15th century remained vigorous, however, among the Qara-Qoyunlu (1380-1468) and Aq Qoyunlu (1378-1508) Turkman dynasties, judging from the number of extant illustrated copies, many with seventy or more paintings, attributable to Tabriz, Shiraz, and Baghdad beginning in about the 1450s-60s

An illustration from a Shah Tahmasp Shahnameh depicts "The Story of Haftvad and the Worm".

and continuing to the end of the century.

These volumes range widely in style and even mix different styles, from the courtly (derived from refined Jalayerid and Timurid modes of painting), to the provincial (featuring simplified compositions and robust figures), with the former probably commissioned by individual patrons such as the Qara-Qoyunlu prince Pir Budaq (d. 1465) and the latter made for sale on the open market and often referred to as "commercial".

Turkman taste and artistic ambitions vis-à-vis the Book of Kings is reflected in a two-volume manuscript, now partly dispersed, made in 1493-94 for Soltan Ali-Mirza Karkia of Gilan, which originally contained over 310 illustrations (again, in a mixture of styles), appearing at regular intervals throughout the text and with many depicting their epic characters with over-sized heads, hence its sobriquet the "Big-Head Shahnameh".

Royal patronage of illustrated volumes of the Shahnameh re-emerged at the outset of the Safavid period (1501-1732), resulting in the production of several important volumes associated with ruling monarchs of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Of these the most celebrated and best-studied is the Shahnameh initially commissioned by the first Safavid shah, Esmail I, in Tabriz probably around 1522 and carried on to glorious completion in the mid-1530s (and perhaps even later) by his son and successor Tahmasp I, whose name appears in an illuminated medallion (shamseh) in the book's opening folios, giving the work its now-accepted title of Shahnameh-ye Shahior Shahnameh-ye Shah Tahmasbi.

In sponsoring an illustrated Shahnameh, Esmail I employed the epic for potent propaganda purposes: as a gesture of Persian patriotism, as a celebration of renewed Persian rule, and as a reassertion of Persian royal authority.

Whatever the motivation, the volume's 258 full-page paintings comprise among the most lavish and original programs of Shahnameh illustration known today.

Likewise, several of its compositions, painted by leading court artists of early Safavid times such as Soltan Mohammad, Mir Mosavver, and Aqa Mirak, count among the recognized masterpieces of Persian painting.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Iran's "Maman" garners awards for stars at Les Rimbaud du Cinema

Frome Page **1** ▸ The Les Rimbaud du Cinema festival, which took place in Ardennes, announced the winners on Friday. The festival is named after Jean Nicolas Arthur Rimbaud, a French poet known for his transgressive and surreal themes and for his influence on modern literature and arts, prefiguring surrealism.

"The Last Bath" by Portuguese director David Bonneville was selected as best feature film.

It follows Josefina, a 40-year-old nun who is about to take her perpetual vows. She is called back to her childhood village to attend her father's funeral when she meets her 15-year-old nephew who has been abandoned by his mother. Isolated, back at the old family house in a sun-drenched remote village, the nun and her nephew feel disconcerted as feelings of attachment emerge.

Roya Afshar and Erfan Ebrahimi act in a scene from "Maman".

The award for best short was given to "The Little Prodigy" by Xavier Diskeuve from Belgium.

In this film, a young pianist on the eve of an important competition, Felix nevertheless lets himself get caught up in a scheme organized by his cousins Raoul and Jean-Louis, agents of football players.

Swedish filmmaker Celina Escher's "Fly So Far" was picked as best documentary.

After serving ten years behind bars for her miscarriage, considered by her government to be an act of aggravated murder, Teodora Vasquez becomes a spokesperson for the other 16 Salvadoran women behind bars for the same "crime" in this story of sorority, resilience and solidarity.

Several other films were also honored during the award ceremony held at the Maison des Auteurs de la SACD.

"A Childless Village", "The Wastetown" to compete in Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian movies "A Childless Village" and "The Wastetown" will be competing in the 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

Directed by Reza Jamali, "A Childless Village" will be screened in the Critics' Picks Competition of the festival, which will take place from November 11 to 27 in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.

As suggested by the title, the funny film-in-film comedy is about a small rural village, where no children have been born for a while and all the men assume that it is the fault of the women.

Two decades ago, old filmmaker Kazem came to this remote rural village to make a documentary about the barrenness of the village women. But the village women wanted to protect their dignity, so they stole and burnt the footage.

By today, the villagers have found out that the men are sterile and there is nothing wrong with the women. With the help of his assistant, Kazem tries to record some interviews with the infertile men to unfold the truth in a new movie, but this turns out in many ways to be a Mission: Impossible.

"The Wastetown" will be showcased in the official competition.

Written and directed by Ahmad Bahrami, the film tells the story of Bemani, a woman who has spent ten years in jail for killing her husband. Her child was taken away from prison and allegedly given to her husband's family.

Temporarily released, she immediately starts looking for her son. Bemani goes to the car demolition facility where Ebi, her brother-in-law, works, but he claims not to know anything about the boy's fate. She finds out, however, that it was Ebi who sold the child to a rich family.

"A Childless Village" directed by Reza Jamali.

Bemani tries to extract more information from the workers at the demolition shop, but they demand an indecent favor in return for the information. As a desperate mother, she is prepared to go to the extremes, but not in the way the men are hoping for.

The Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival hosts more than 1000 guests and industry delegates and over 160 journalists every year.

Book on animals, plants that changed world published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Tamed: Ten Species That Changed Our World" by English physical anthropologist Alice Roberts has been published in Persian.

Neda-ye Tarikh is the publisher of the Persian edition translated by Kamyar Abdi.

For hundreds of thousands of years, our ancestors depended on wild plants and animals for survival. They were hunter-gatherers and consummate foraging experts, but taking the world as they found it.

Then a revolution occurred – our ancestors' interaction with other species changed and they began to tame them. The human population boomed; civilization began.

In her new book, "Tamed", Alice Roberts uncovers the amazing deep history of ten familiar species with incredible wild pasts: dogs, apples and wheat; cattle; potatoes and chickens; rice, maize and horses – and, finally, humans.

Roberts not only reveals how becoming part of our world changed these animals and plants, but shows how they became our allies, essential to the survival and success of our own species – and to our future.

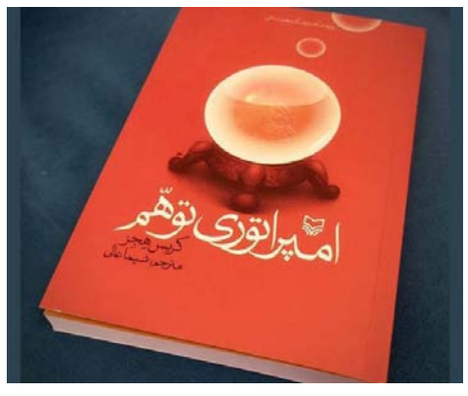
Front cover of the Persian edition of Alice Roberts' book "Tamed: Ten Species That Changed Our World".

Enlightening, wide-ranging and endlessly fascinating, "Tamed" is an epic story, encompassing hundreds of thousands of years of history and archaeology alongside cutting-edge genetics and anthropology.

Yet it is also a deeply personal journey that will change how we see ourselves and the species on which we have left our mark.

Roberts studied medicine and anatomy at Cardiff University, qualifying in 1997 as a physician with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB BCh) degree, having gained an intercalated Bachelor of Science degree in anatomy. She earned a Ph.D. in paleopathology in 2008 from the University of Bristol.

Five scenes of the American society's deceptive illusion



A review of the book "Empire of Illusion"

The culture of influencers, celebrity dramas, advertising lies, and fake news in the media are just a few examples of what Chris Hedges has addressed with a critical attitude to American life in his book "Empire of Illusion," which was recently translated by Shima Ali.

Chris Hedges is an American journalist and dissident who was born on September 18, 1956. He attended "Harvard," worked as a reporter for the New York Times, won the Pulitzer Prize, and authored 11 books. "War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning," "American Fascists," and "Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt" are among his best-known works.

This author has divided his book into 5 chapters: The illusion of literacy, the illusion of love, the illusion of wisdom, the illusion of happiness, and the American illusion. In each chapter, he has looked at different angles of the spread of the shadow of illusion on the life of American society.

In a part of the Illusion of Literacy chapter, which is dedicated to the entertainment industry and celebrity, he wrote that: In contemporary culture, the fake and show has replaced the real, original, and spontaneous thing, to the extent that reality itself has become the art of performance. We are the first people in history who have made their illusions so vivid, so convincing, and so "realistic" that they can live in them; We accept this risk. We are the most delusional people on earth.

In another section of his book, Chris Hedges believes that the media and celebrities are increasingly denigrated in order to make a living, and that celebrities are skillfully recruited under the control of consumerist culture.

In the "illusion of love" chapter, he criticizes the porn industry in American society and says that the more society loses touch with reality, especially regarding romantic and sexual relationships, and people don't know how relationships should be and how they should treat others, they turn to pornography more and more.

In "illusion of wisdom," he puts the educational system of American society under the microscope and criticizes the first-rate colleges of this country and says that the respect of these first-rate colleges to the rich, despite the respect for public services, is clear to students, and the issue is money!

Chris Hedges talks about the political system of this country in the "American illusion" chapter, and said that the American government is devoid of any real authority, reserved only for the privileged class, and in a culture full of illusions.

According to him, America projects a fake moral order and power and tries to keep prosperity alive by borrowing trillions of dollars of money that it can never repay.