

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Report

### Netanyahu vs. the Lion's Den Brigade

The extremist Zionist far-right camp led by Benjamin Netanyahu along with his radical coalition has won 64 out of 120 seats in the 25th Israeli Knesset elections.

The longest serving Israeli Premier, who is widely accused of war crimes and is facing a variety of corruption charges, appears to be back in power. But this time he faces the challenge of a growing armed resistance in the occupied West Bank, in particular the recently formed Lion's Den Brigade.

Despite winning four more seats to gain a majority, Israel is in a political crisis that has seen an unprecedented number of elections. The entity held an astonishing fifth election in less than four years on November 1, reflecting the risks of growing internal divisions and how quickly Israeli war cabinets can suddenly collapse.

Since the creation of the Israeli entity, there have never been any real differences between the different Zionist parties, whether they are on the so-called left or the right as the regime has been committing genocide against the Palestinians on their indigenous land since the creation of Israel by the British in 1948. ▶ Page 5

### Raisi lauds people's participation in anti-arrogance rally

TEHRAN – Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has expressed appreciation for the Iranian people's presence in the recent anti-global arrogance rally held across the country.

Speaking on Sunday afternoon at the cabinet session, President Raisi referred to the meaningful presence of the people in the World Anti-Arrogance Day protests and said, "People's time-sensitiveness should be appreciated not only in words, but in action, and one of the practical ways of showing gratitude to the people is to respond to their expectations for their right to double efforts in the direction of improvement and the growth of the cultural, economic and social conditions of society."

He continued to consider the efforts to speed up the implementation of provincial travel resolutions as other areas of practical service and gratitude to the people and stated, "All departments and institutions are obliged to follow the implementation of these resolutions seriously." ▶ Page 3

### We want to show how strong we are: Figueroa

TEHRAN – Nicaragua football team coach Marco Antonio Figueroa says that they are ready for the match against Iran and want to show how strong they are.

The match between Iran and Nicaragua will be held without the Iranian players who play abroad on Thursday in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Team Melli play Nicaragua and Tunisia as part of preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

"We know Iran have fast and amazing players because we analyzed four matches of the team. I think the result of the match depends on what happens in the game," Figueroa said.

"Iran are a strong team and look for good results. Nicaragua also want to show how strong they are, that's why we are here in Tehran," he added.

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

Team Melli will open the campaign with a match against England on Nov. 21.

Carlos Queiroz's men will meet Wales and the U.S. on Nov. 25 and 29, respectively.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd running of the FIFA World Cup competition, the quadrennial international men's football championship contested by the senior national teams of the member associations of FIFA.

The competition will be held in Doha, Qatar from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18.

# U.S. Is on the Decline



© Reuters

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – In his recent speech, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, has said that the United States is moving on the path of decline. Many independent pundits and experts acknowledge that.

"One of the things that – I'm saying this now,

some other people across the world have apparently said it too – I believe that one of the signs of America's decline is the election of people like the current and the former president," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with students. "A country of 300 million, 300 million-plus people almost destroys itself and elects a president in

the previous term – somebody like Trump whom the world considers to be crazy and after he was defeated, a man like this current one comes to power, and well, you know the stories about him. This is evidence of the decline of a nation. This is evidence of the decline of a civilization. So, this was [matters] related to America." ▶ Page 3

### Petchem parks to create jobs for 20,000 people: Oji

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said 13 petrochemical industry parks are going to be constructed in the country which will create job opportunities for over 20,000 people, Shana reported.

Speaking on national TV on Sunday night, Oji said the mentioned parks are going to be constructed in southern Iran where most of the country's oil and gas reserves lay.

According to the official, the Oil Ministry first identified 29 areas in four provinces on the coasts of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and after assessing the mentioned areas 13 sites have been finally chosen based on studies of land, the possibility of providing feed and the availability of ancillary facilities.

Mentioning a meeting with First Vice Pres-

ident Mohammad Mokhber and some experts and oil industry officials, as well as the representatives of some major petrochemical complexes on Sunday, Oji said that the resources for the implementation of these parks are going to be supplied by the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC), bank facilities, and some private investment. ▶ Page 4

### Science and technology tourism regulated

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The regulation for promoting science and technology tourism has been compiled with the aim of introducing scientific capacities and advances to the Iranian nation.

The regulation is awaiting the government's approval to take effect.

In terms of science production, Iran ranks first in the West Asian region and ranks 15th in the world, and the production of highly cited scientific articles in Scopus in 2021 has reached 77,351 degrees. This figure was equal to 71,971 in 2020 and 64,988 in 2019.

Also, 841 Iranian researchers are among the top one percent of most cited researchers in the world, based on the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database. ▶ Page 7

### How did ancient Iranians make ice before freezers?

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Nothing says summer like a glass of slushy lemonade. Thousands of years ago, ancient Iranians used a clever physical method to keep their drinks cool in hot, arid climates.

It may sound a bit far-fetched that ancient Persians saved ice in the middle of the desert as a smart way to cool off and store food during the summer months. In fact, they stumbled across a

neat bit of physics that allowed them to create ice from water even in scorching summers.

This way of preserving ice shows people's ability to find solutions to problems with whatever material or technology they have at their disposal. It was then that the Yakhchals were found to be of great help.

The word Yakhchal stands for "ice pit." These oddly shaped structures provided both space and

conditions to store not just ice, but many types of food that would otherwise quickly spoil due to high temperatures.

On the outside, the mud-brick structure of a Yakhchal dominates the skyline with its domed shape, and on the inside, it would typically integrate an evaporation cooler system that allows ice to stay cool or even frozen while stored in underground rooms. ▶ Page 6



© IRNA / Mahdi Pourarbab

### Funeral service held for unrest victim in Karaj

TEHRAN – Thousands of mourners attended a funeral service for Seyed Rohollah Ajamian in Karaj, a Basij member, who was martyred during the recent riots in Karaj. The service was also attended by local officials and IRGC members. Ajamian was a longtime member of Basij who was stabbed to death by rioters on Thursday. Rioters implicated in the martyrdom were arrested by security forces before the funeral was held.

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## Iran arrests 26 terrorists led by Azerbaijani national

TEHRAN – The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence announced on Monday that it had busted a group of 26 terrorists in relation to the Shiraz attack that was led by an Azerbaijani national.

The ministry said it has so far detained 26 terrorists who were involved or planning to carry out terrorist attacks across Iran, including Zahedan.

"All the individuals arrested are non-Iranian and hold Azerbaijani, Tajik, and Afghan citizenship," the ministry said in a statement.

It also said that the mastermind behind the Shiraz attack who coordinated it is an Azerbaijani national.

"The main coordinating and orchestrating element of the operation inside the country is an Azerbaijani national who boarded a plane at the Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku and entered the country via Imam Khomeini airport. After arriving in Tehran, this individual informed the coordinating element in the Republic of Azerbaijan of his presence," the statement said, according to IRNA.

The Intelligence Ministry said the Azerbaijani national contacted Daesh's network of foreign nationals through a Daesh superior in Afghanistan.

The Shiraz attack took place on October 26 at Maghrib prayer time, when a terrorist opened fire at the pilgrims with his AK-47 rifle, killing at least 13 people and injuring dozens of others. The attack prompted national grief and sorrow amid a continued wave of unrest.

Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. ▶ Page 3

## Ammar film festival shifts focus to Iranian women's issues

TEHRAN – Organizers of the Ammar Popular Film Festival said on Sunday that Iranian women will be the focus of the event's 13th edition, which will take place in Tehran in January 2023.

Established by a number of Iranian revolutionary figures, the festival has been named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Speaking in a press conference, the director of the Ammar Policy-Making Council, Saeid Khorshidi, said some of Iranian society's concerns and needs have been disregarded in the media.

For instance, he said, Iranian women's issues have always been ignored by the media.

"The path Iranian women have followed over the past forty years has not been discussed by the media; the Islamic Revolution's achievements in women's issues are instructive; I hope the revolutionary filmmakers would regard this subject," he stated.

The Ammar Policy-Making Council has selected Argentinean Muslim cleric Edgardo Robin to replace the former president of the festival, Nader Talebzadeh, who died in April. ▶ Page 8

## Hamid Nouri waiting for final verdict



TEHRAN- Sweden was set to hold the Iranian national Hamid Nouri's court of appeal on November 7.

A Swedish court convicted Hamid Nouri guilty of war crimes and murder on October 24 by which he was given a life sentence.

The decision to hold a court of appeal has been denied by Hamid Nouri's attorneys.

They have fundamentally questioned the Swedish court's legal validity, asserting that

the court deemed itself legitimate to hear the issue without taking into account the limitations inherent in Swedish legislation or the constraints imposed by international law.

Based on both Swedish internal law and international law, the application of the international legitimacy of internal courts is subject to requirements and limitations.

According to Swedish law, a foreign citizen must willingly enter the country in order to stand trial in Swedish courts on the basis of international legitimacy.

Hamid Nouri's attorneys contend that he entered Sweden against his will and under false pretenses.

The attorneys stated that the Swedish court did not specify any interest for the Swedish government in its earlier judgment, despite the fact that the Swedish government must have an interest in the execution of international legitimacy.

## Raisi congratulates Iran's Greco-Roman, beach soccer champions

TEHRAN- In separate messages on Sunday night, President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated Iran's national Greco-Roman team on their great triumph in the Azerbaijan World Wrestling Championship and the national beach football team on its championship in the UAE Intercontinental Beach Football Championship.

In his statement on the occasion, President Raisi said that the victory of the national Iranian wrestling team in the Azerbaijan World Wrestling Championship was both pride-inspiring and a testament to the skills and aptitude of the prestigious Islamic, Iranian youth in sports fields, as well as the efforts made by the coaches, technical team, and all members of the Greco-Roman team, which brought international grandeur for Iran and are sincerely appreciated.

"The mighty championship of the national Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team in Azerbaijan World Wrestling Championship was another golden medal added to many gold medals of the proud Iranian wrestling, which I congratulate and wish the team and our nation happiness," the president added.

He asserted that this triumph, which gave him great pride, demonstrated the strength and prowess of the renowned Iranian sports-

men in a variety of sports.

Despite the referees' regrettably biased decisions in favor of the hosts, the Iran national Greco-Roman wrestling team defeated the host team, Azerbaijan, in the final of the 2022 Baku Greco-Roman Global Championship on Sunday to claim the top spot in the world rankings.

Raisi expressed deep appreciation for the national beach football players, the beloved Iranian people, the team's coaches, and the supporting team in his Sunday night message on the occasion of Iran's beach football team winning the title.

In his message to the Iranian national beach football team's victory in the UAE Intercontinental Cup, the president said it "was another display of Iran's power at international sports venues."

The president said, "I celebrate this wonderful and pride-inspiring win and praise the coaches, players, and team management who produced this pride, and I pray to Almighty Allah for grandeur of our dear nation, Iran."

Iran's national beach football team defeated the strong Brazil team 2-1 in the final game to clinch Asia-America championship in the 2022 UAE Intercontinental Beach Football.

## 'Over 1500 cold, hot weapons seized from rioters in Tehran'

TEHRAN- The commander of the 27th Mohammad Rasulullah Division of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Monday that during the insurgency in Tehran, at least 1500 weapons of all kinds were confiscated from those striving to ransack public properties and foment insecurity in the capital.

Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzadeh also noted that such proportions are tantamount to doctored plans in a bid to spell troubles in Tehran.

He added that many of them are captured while the move sparked a hunt for other rioters.

While stating that the biggest goal of the enemy is to prevent the progress of the Islamic Revolution, General Hassanzadeh underlined that among the arrested people, there are a number of dual nationals as well as foreign-related intelligence individuals, members of MKO, and other groups opposed to the Islamic Republic, who were planning to spread riots in the capital Tehran.

Likewise, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, commander of the Iranian border guards, said during the last 45 days his forces have destroyed multiple trafficking rings and found 600 war weapons.

Seizure of war weapons grew 26 percent compared with the preceding year, the commander said, the police said in a report on its website on Monday.

During a visit to Iran's borders in the south-east, the commander stated that recent turmoil caused by the U.S. and Israeli regime, as



well as their operatives within the country, had created challenges for the security of "our beloved compatriots."

He emphasized that border guards are vehemently opposed to any attempt to disobey the law.

"Our border guards are the stronghold of the Islamic Republic of Iran's sacred system," the commander added.

Based on the police report issued on Monday, one leader and three instigators of the recent disturbance in the central Iranian city of Najafabad have been detained.

Following the recent unrest in Najafabad, in which a number of individuals were duped into taking to the streets and committing desecration of sanctities, the local police initiated an investigation.

According to the report, the police detained one of the organizers of disturbance in the city after receiving intelligence.

The police also confiscated a large number of cold weapons and other items used in clashes with the police when searching the organizer's hideaway.

# Launch of Qaem satellite-carrying rocket made foes angry, delirious: diplomat

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Monday hailed the successful launch of the Qaem-100 satellite-carrying rocket by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force, saying it has made the foes "angry and delirious".

Nasser Kan'ani made the remark just two days after the launch of the three-stage solid fuel suborbital carrier.

Qaem-100, the first of its kind manufactured by Iranian scientists, is capable of putting satellites weighing up to 80 kilograms into orbit 500 kilometers from the earth's surface.

The spokesman called launch a symbol of "national power".

"The successful launch of the Qaem-100 satellite carrier was another demonstration of the national power and the ability of Iran's young scientists for surmounting the summits of science and modern technologies," Kanaani tweeted, Press TV reported.

The point that makes the launch even more important is that it took place despite the enemies' sanctions, including the United States' so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran, Kanaani remarked. "This is the very thing that has made the Iranian nation's known enemies angry and delirious."

According to IRGC officials, Qaem-100 is now ready to launch Nahid, a satellite manufactured by the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, into orbit in the near future.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Saturday ceremony, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC Aerospace



Division, said arrogant countries, led by the United States, are doing all they can to hinder Iran's progress.

"They cannot stand the impressive achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Hajizadeh pointed out.

Previous launches have drawn criticism from the United States and its allies, which have long been wary of Iran's satellite program as the same technology can be used to develop long-range missiles. Iran says its satellite program is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications.

The United States claimed the launch was "unhelpful and destabilizing".

"The United States remains concerned with Iran's continued development of space launch vehicles (SLVs), which pose a significant proliferation concern," a U.S. State Department spokesperson said, according to euro news.

The spokesperson added, "SLVs incorporate technologies that are virtually identical to, and interchangeable with, those used in ballistic missiles, including longer-range systems."

Iran has over the past years succeeded in manufacturing and putting into space different satellites as well as launching various carriers.

Late in June, Iran tested its domestically-developed hybrid-propellant satellite carrier rocket called Zuljanah for "pre-determined research purposes" for the second time.

Also, a new air defense missile powered by solid propellants was unveiled by the Defense Ministry on Sunday.

The missile, called "Sayyad 4B", is paired with Bavar-373 air defense system. It has a range of 300 kilometers.

In a recent test, the Bavar-373 air defense system successfully

hit a target at a distance of over 300 km with the new missile.

The Iranian air defense system managed to detect the target at a range of more than 450 kilometers with its optimized radar and tracked the target at a distance of around 405 km before detonating it with Sayyad 4B, Tasnim reported.

The missile's engine runs on hybrid solid fuel and has undergone an operational test for the first time.

The new breakthrough has increased the range of the detection radar of Bavar 373 from 350 to 450 km, while its tracking radar's range has risen from 260 to 400 kilometers.

The employment of the new missile also means that the range of the Iranian air defense system missiles has been extended to 300 km and the altitude of engagement has increased from 27 to 32 km.

Army's Air Defense Force Commander Sabahi Fard said on Sunday that Bavar-373 has the capability to counter drones and all fighter jets, including "generation 5" warplanes.

Sabahi Fard also said Iran is among the few countries in the world which has succeeded to build such a powerful air defense system.

The top military official added Bavar-373 and other air defense systems will be upgraded superior to the threats.

Defense Minister Mohammadreza Ashtiani also called Bavar-373 a great defense and national achievement and said, "This system will have a very important role in upgrading military power of armed forces."

## Strategic consequences of attempting unacceptable border changes in the South Caucasus

The Baku government's claim is that there is no such discussion in the tripartite agreement in the form that Azerbaijan is proposing and trying to realize it with aggressive military, security and political policies in the last two years. What is proposed in the agreement of November 10, 2020, is the creation of a transport "route of communication" between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan, including the unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods, which is guaranteed by Armenia, and the control of transport by the FSB of Russia.

Despite the explicit statement of paragraph 9 of the tripartite ceasefire agreement regarding the establishment of a "communication route" under the supervision of Russia, and despite the fact that in this paragraph there is no name of "corridor", "channel" or "passage", as well as the exact cities and regions where the communication route passes and its "length" and "width", we are still witnessing important challenging and controversial issues from Baku in this field.

An important question that is raised here is why the government of Azerbaijan, contrary to the provisions of the 2020 agreement and the provisions of international law, still insists on reopening the alleged corridor of "Zangezor" in an exclusive way?

Examining the developments of the last two years in the South Caucasus clearly shows that the government of Baku is pursuing interests in the alleged Zangezor Corridor, with "territorial continuity" at the top of them, but it should not be overlooked that, in addition to Baku, Turkey is the most important beneficiary of the construction of the aforementioned corridor.

The current conflict in the South Caucasus is no longer over Nagorno-Karabakh and is not limited to Armenia and Azerbaijan, but has gained further dimensions and many players with strategic goals have entered it, Turkey being at the top because in recent years, the Turkish government has seriously placed the approach known as the "Turkish World" on the agenda of its foreign policy and seeks to form "Greater Turkistan", so the main beneficiary of the creation of such a corridor is Turkey.

The most important function of the alleged Zangezor Corridor, which is sometimes

called the "Turkistan Corridor", is to remove the biggest land and physical obstacle to the advancement of the Great Turkistan policy, which is related to Armenia and Sivnik province.

This is very important and dangerous from a strategic point of view, so that in 2020, in the midst of military conflicts between the military forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Ibrahim Karagol, the editor of Yeni Shafaq newspaper, an unofficial organ of the ruling party of Turkey, wrote on his personal page:

"Iran no longer has any border with Karabakh and should not be allowed to have a border with Armenia either; Nakhchivan should be connected to Azerbaijan and the road to Central Asia should be opened. Iran and Russia's unchanging doctrine of preventing the integration of the Turkic world must be ended!" He also emphasized on his page, "The Karabakh war has just started and is considered the first step!"

Therefore, it is quite clear that the Karabakh conflict has practically become a "cover" for the advancement of strategic and long-term policies of some regional actors, which can lead to "dangerous strategic consequences".

"Changing borders and geopolitics of the region" is the most important consequence

### The main beneficiary of the creation of the alleged "Zangezor" corridor will be Turkey, which is seeking "Greater Turkistan".

in this regard. If the Zangezor Corridor is built with the coordinates claimed by the Baku government, it will cut off Iran's communication lines with Armenia, and as a result, cut off one of Iran's important transit routes to Europe. Disruption in Iran's trade relations with Russia, Armenia and Georgia is another consequence of the alleged Zangezor corridor. This issue will also reduce Iran's geopolitical advantage in the Caucasus and disrupt the balance of communication lines in the region, which is not acceptable in any way.

The establishment of NATO in the South

### This is a 'strategic issue' for Iran to be sensitive to any change in borders or geopolitical structures in its surrounding environment.

Caucasus and on the northern borders of Iran is another important consequence in this regard. According to the experiences of NATO's activities and functions, this issue will definitely cause "weakening of the geopolitical order" and "expansion of insecurity and instability" in the South Caucasus in the long run, the waves of which will affect Azerbaijan in the first place. It is not without reason that in some political and media circles, the alleged corridor is also referred to as "NATO's transfer corridor to the Caucasus".

In 2020, Adam Thomson, the former representative of the British government in NATO, published a statement addressed to the British Prime Minister and wrote, "I request Mr. Prime Minister to use all his strength at this critical moment in history to take the last step to complete the 15-year project of NATO. London, with the participation of the United States and the European Union in the form of NATO, should support Azerbaijan's will to connect land to Nakhchivan!"

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a specific policy towards changing borders not only in the Caucasus, but in its surrounding environment. This is a "strategic issue" for Iran to be sensitive to any change in borders or geopolitical and geographical structures in its surrounding environment and to show a serious and tough reaction.

As seen in the issue of the Iraqi Kurdistan referendum, the Islamic Republic of Iran was against the independence of the Iraqi Kurdistan and prevented it, and in the South Caucasus, a change of borders, will aggravate conflicts and disputes in the surrounding environment and create security threats. It is "unbearable" foe Tehran and will not accept it.

(Source: scfr.ir)

From Page 1 ▶ The fact that the United States is on the decline has been reiterated by many pundits and politicians, including inside the United States.

On Sunday, former President Donald Trump described the United States as “a country in decline” in a campaign speech in Western Pennsylvania. “If you want to stop the destruction of our country and save the American dream, then on Tuesday you must vote Republican in a giant red wave,” he told supporters.

On the other hand, President Joe Biden is now warning that America is on the path to chaos. “As I stand here today, there are candidates running for every level of office in America – for governor, for Congress, for attorney general, for secretary of state who won’t commit to accepting the results of the elections they’re in,” Biden said. “That is the path to chaos in America. It’s unprecedented. It’s unlawful. And it is un-American.”

He also warned that democracy in America cannot be taken for granted anymore.

“Nearly half of Americans fear their country will erupt within the next decade,” the Guardian reported, citing three American political scientists who warned of another civil war breaking out in America. “Look for the next



## U.S. is on the decline

civil war to take place after the 2024 election cycle, when the next wave of violence is likely to emerge. Similar to the original civil war, there’s too much at stake for both sides. Then, as now, the threats are existential.” Christopher Sebastian Parker, professor of political science at

the University of California, Santa Barbara, wrote for the Guardian. “America is rushing headlong into another civil war, and it’s a matter of when, not if.”

Barbara F Walter, an American political scientist, is of the opinion that America will continue to

decline due a variety of factors. “America’s democracy declined rapidly between 2016 and 2020. Since 6 January 2021, the U.S. has failed to strengthen its democracy in any way, leaving it vulnerable to continued backsliding into the middle zone,” she said.

## Syrian delegate meets Iranian Foreign Ministry officials



TEHRAN - Director of the Diplomatic Institute at the Syrian Foreign Ministry Imad Mustafa has met with two Iranian Foreign Ministry officials during his visit to Tehran.

The Syrian official met with Iranian Foreign Ministry Center for Political and International Studies director Mohammad Hassan Sheikholeslami and Mohammad Taghi Hosseini, the deputy director for education at the ministry’s Center for Political and International Studies.

Sheikholeslami and Mustafa discussed issues of mutual interest during the meeting, according to the ministry.

They also expressed their readiness to continue cooperation in the fields of research, education, and science.

Imad Mustafa said he was pleased to be at the Center for Political and International Studies and said its accomplishments were noteworthy.

In the meeting with Hosseini, the two sides emphasized the expansion of cooperation between the two institutions in terms of diplomatic training and exchange of experiences, and explored ways of developing scientific and pedagogical cooperation.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed to enhance educational cooperation.

The MOU stresses the important role of cooperation in the area of diplomatic training, the creation of the right conditions to maintain communication and enhance educational cooperation, the use of novel methods to train diplomatic corps in foreign policy, international relations, international law, foreign economic relations, and political science, and the exchanges of educational board members, speech givers, experts, researchers, and educational syllabi.

Last week, the Syrian Foreign Minister, Faisal Mekdad, paid a visit to Tehran, where he met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian. The two ministers discussed issues of mutual interest, especially economic, commercial and tourism cooperation, as well as some regional and international issues.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized the common positions of the two countries in various regional and international fields.

He stated that both countries have agreed

to hold a joint high commission on economic cooperation in Tehran in the near future hosted by Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, with Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous in attendance.

The top Iranian diplomat also touched on the one-day meeting of the Group of Friends for the Defense of the UN Charter, which was held in Tehran on Saturday with the participation of 18 countries at the level of deputy foreign ministers.

Meanwhile, Mekdad highlighted the solidarity and friendship between Iran and Syria against foreign interventionist measures, saying, “These measures are taken with the aim of targeting the stability of Iran and the region.”

The Syrian foreign minister expressed satisfaction that perpetrators of anti-Iran actions and their financial and media supporters failed.

He welcomed the meeting of the Group of Friends for the Defense of the UN Charter and added: “The world’s dominant pole has used the United Nations Charter for its own interests and it has pushed the charter away from its true goals.”

The Syrian foreign minister also supported Iran’s position in the nuclear negotiations and expressed hope that the Western countries would stop their dishonest positions in the process.

as the necessity of protecting the security of nations of the region from dangers posed by this terrorist group, highlighted the importance of maintaining ongoing, successful efforts in the region to eradicate terrorism and reminded the international community that its sensitivity and vigilance toward terrorist threats should not be compromised.”

He noted, “The Security Council’s inexcusable silence in the face of this crime demonstrated that some powers, who are also permanent members of the Security Council, continue to categorize terrorists as either good or bad, and not only use ISIS as a tool to exert pressure

on other nations to further their own narrow political agendas, but also their discriminatory and irresponsible actions make it more difficult for the Security Council to effectively carry out its mandate in combating international terrorism.”

The foreign minister said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a victim of terrorism and a pioneer in the fight against terrorist groups in the region, is steadfast in its determination to continue its efforts in the fight against terrorism, both to protect the security of the region’s nations and the honorable and great nation of Iran from the dangers posed by such terrorist group.”

## Iran arrests 26 terrorists led by Azerbaijani national

From Page 1 ▶ Iran has criticized the United Nations Security Council’s silence over the attack. In a letter to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres late on Friday, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said, “You are aware that the great nation of Iran has been the target of yet another terrorist attack. Following previous terrorist attacks on Iranian citizens, diplomats, scientists, and peaceful nuclear facilities, on 26 October 2022, a sinister terrorist attack targeting pilgrims to the holy shrine of the Shah-e-Cheragh in Shiraz resulted in the martyrdom of 15 innocent Iranians, including men, women,



and children, and the injury of 30 others.”

Amir Abdollahian added, “This terrorist attack, for which ISIS/Daesh officially claimed responsibility, demonstrated the significance of the bravery of martyred General Qassem Soleimani in the fight against such a terrorist group as well

## Raisi lauds people’s participation in anti-arrogance rally

From Page 1 ▶ Ayatollah Raisi also obliged the Central Bank and other related institutions to make double efforts to maintain stability in the currency market, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

President Raisi also mentioned his meetings with highly talented students on the occasion of Student’s Day and emphasized providing detailed analyses to these elites.

Earlier on Saturday, the heads of the three branches of the government hailed the people’s presence in the anti-global

arrogance rally held on the 4th of November as “unique.”

The three senior officials appreciated the magnificent and unique participation of the people of Islamic Iran in the ceremony of the day of fighting against global arrogance and declaring national solidarity, stressing the need to be more vigilant against the threats of the enemies and to deal with their sinister conspiracies and divisive measures.

The necessity of speeding up the handling of the cases of those who caused unrest and insecurity in the country and their punishment were among the other issues



emphasized by the heads of the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

## SPORTS

### Iran’s men ease past Croatia at Sitting Volleyball World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran finished top of Pool B after the opening stage of the 2022 Sitting Volleyball World Championship.

Team Melli defeated Croatia 3-0 25-18, 25-15, 25-16 Sunday night.

Following the conclusion of the initial pool stage, a cross-pool round of games is scheduled for Monday, to determine which teams will go to the quarter-finals, with the remainder then playing a series of classification matches to determine the remaining places.

Iran’s women’s team also lost to Canada 3-1 (25-10, 25-14, 23-25, 25-13).

The competitions are being held in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s capital Sarajevo and will run until Nov. 11.

Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup for the fourth time.

In the match held in Dubai’s Main Stadium, Mohammad Ahmadzadeh gave Team Melli a lead in the first period and Saeid Piramoon made it 2-0 in the second period.

Catarino made it 2-1 with four minutes remaining.

Akbari was named as the MVP, while his fellow Behzadpour went home with the Best Goalkeeper award.

After netting a double on the final day, Carlos Carballo, Paraguay skipper, won the Top Scorer award.

The competition was held in Dubai, the UAE, from November 1 to 5.

### World Cup is a prominent event: Omid Ebrahimi

TEHRAN – Omid Ebrahimi, Iranian national team and Al-Wakra team player, has said that he and his teammates hope to perform well in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and achieve the desired results awaited by the Iranian fans.

The Iranian international player described the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 as the most prominent event.

The team continues its preparations in its last camp, while awaiting the arrival of players outside Iran, before traveling to Doha to compete in the tournament.

In statements published on the FIFA website, the 35-year-old player added that preparations are going well in the camp that the Iranian national team is hosting in preparation for the largest international sporting event.

Ebrahimi said that the players will do their best to present Iranian football appropriately.

“The World Cup is the most prominent event. The team is waiting for the rest of the players to come from abroad in the coming days before traveling to Doha,” he said, referencing the players outside Iran in international clubs.

The player added that he wants to play well and represent his team well, but of course, it will not be easy since they will play against many big teams.

Iran, led by Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz, are in Group B alongside England, the US, and Wales.

The team will play the first match in the tournament against England on November 21, then face Wales on November 25, and conclude the group stage by facing the USA on November 29.

### Majid Hosseini assists in Kayserispor away win over Gaziantep

TEHRAN – Gaziantep FK, and Kayserispor faced each other in the 13th week of the Super League. The match ended with Kayserispor winning 2-1.

Kayserispor opened the scoring in the 41st minute through Oliver Kemen (Assisted by Majid Hosseini).

Furkan Soyalp levelled the score for Gaziantep in the 52nd minute.

In the 89th minute, Ramazan Civelek scored the winner for the visitors.

With this result, Kayserispor took 5th place with 23 points. Gaziantep FK, on the other hand, took 10th place with 15 points.

Gaziantep FK will visit Fatih Kargumruk next week while Kayserispor will host Konyaspor at home.

### Beiranvand among five Asian FIFA World Cup heroes

TEHRAN – Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is among five top Asian players at the FIFA World Cups.

Over the years a number of Asian players have produced the goods at the FIFA World Cup, lighting up arenas around the globe and providing incredible moments that have gone down in the Continent’s footballing folklore.

With the kick-off for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 only days away, the-afc.com turns back the clock to highlight the achievements of five Asian players who have shone brightest on the global showpiece.

Carlos Queiroz’s Iran may have exited at the 2018 group stage, but it’s hard to argue the tournament wasn’t a success for Team Melli, while it’s equally difficult to contest that Beiranvand wasn’t their star man.

The Persepolis shot-stopper shone as Iran edged past Morocco 1-0 in their opener and he then produced another string of excellent saves in a narrow 1-0 loss to Spain, when only a fortuitous Diego Costa goal got the better of the big custodian.

A goal down in the third game against Portugal, Iran conceded a penalty to hand Cristiano Ronaldo the chance to all but seal a place in the next round. In a moment Beiranvand would later describe as the biggest of his life, he dived to his left to deny one of the greatest players of all time and kept his country’s hopes alive.

Five Asian FIFA World Cup Heroes

**Park Ji-sung (Korea Republic)**

Appearances: 2002, 2006, 2010

Goals: 3

**Sami Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia)**

Appearances: 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006

Goals: 3

**Tim Cahill (Australia)**

Appearances: 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018

Goals: 5

**Keisuke Honda (Japan)**

Appearances: 2010, 2014, 2018

Goals: 4

**Alireza Beiranvand (Iran)**

Appearance: 2018

### Akbari, Behzadpour win accolades at Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup

TEHRAN – Iran’s Amir Hossein Akbari and Hamid Behzadpour won accolades at the 2022 Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup on Sunday.

Iran defeated Brazil 2-1 to win the

## Tehran, Ashgabat stress expansion of energy ties



TEHRAN – Iran and Turkmenistan's energy ministers have explored ways of expanding relations between the two countries in the energy sector in an online meeting, IRIB reported on Monday.

During the meeting, Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and his Turkmen counterpart Rajab Muradov stressed the need for the expansion of energy

ties between the two neighbors.

Mehrabian pointed to the positive political relations between the two countries in the meeting, saying that good relations have also been established between the two sides in the field of water and electricity and significant projects are being implemented.

## Export from Mazandaran province increases 2% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The value of export from Mazandaran province, in the north of Iran, rose two percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with the customs department of the province announced.

Asgar Niknafs said that 636,740 tons of commodities worth \$161.26 million have been exported from the province in the seven-month period, showing 24 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

He named dairy products, plastic materials, cement, food products, metals and their artifacts, products from mineral materials, wood and wooden objects, paper, textile materials and artifacts from these materials, and chemical industry products as the major exported items, and Iraq, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the main export destinations.

The official further announced that 1,289 million tons of commodities valued at \$796.482 million have been imported to the province in the first seven months of the present year, showing 12 percent rise in terms of value and 28 percent drop in terms of weight as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

He named animal and vegetable fats and oils, corn, oats, wheat, petroleum and metallurgical coke, machinery and its components, paper, towing float, wood and chemical products as the major imported items, and Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Kazakhstan and Switzerland as the main sources of imports in the seven-month period of the current year.

As previously announced by Hossein-Qoli Qavanlou, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, the value of export from Mazandaran province rose 55 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.

He said that commodities worth \$277 million were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate 44 percent annual growth, he added.



The official further named cement, minerals, dairy products, plastic, and kiwi as the main exported products, and Iraq, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, and India as the major export destinations.

As announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 5.6 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to Morteza Emadi, Iran exported 61.283 million tons of goods valued at \$28.406 billion in the mentioned seven months, registering an 18.2-percent decline in weight.

Liquefied propane, methanol, liquefied butane, film-grade polyethylene, petroleum bitumen, liquefied natural gas, urea, iron and steel ingots, and light oils and petroleum products were the main exported products in the said time span, accounting for 41.9 percent of the total value of the exports.

Major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with \$9.181 billion of imports, Iraq with \$4.029 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$3.476 billion, Turkey with \$3.081 billion, and India with \$1.098 billion.

According to the official, the Islamic Republic has also imported 19.747 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$31.727 billion in the first seven months of the present year, with a 14.4-percent growth in value and a 15.7-percent decrease in weight, year on year.

## TEDPIX climbs 45,000 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 45,073 points to 1.389 million on Monday.

As reported, over 10.825 billion securities

worth 60.1 trillion rials (about \$207.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 40,200 points and the second market's index gained 68,473 points.

TEDPIX gained 43,000 points to 1.283 million 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).

# Petchem parks to create jobs for 20,000 people: Oji

from page 1 ▶ "These parks will be established in four provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Sistan-Baluchestan," he added.

"One of the main duties of the Oil Ministry is to prevent the sale of raw materials and to complete the oil industry's value chain, which is emphasized by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution," Oji said.

Mentioning the country's petrochemical capacity, the minister said: "Today there are 60 petrochemical complexes in the country whose 70 percent of major products are exported in the form of semi-crude products, and the other 30 percent is consumed inside the country."

Saying that the completion of the value chain is one of the priorities of the Oil Ministry, Oji added: "In this regard, a plan has



been made to complete the value chain for the mentioned 70 percent of products; this can create added value, prevent the outflow of revenues, generate higher income and create jobs."

### Establishing petchem parks to create employment: VP

Mohammad Mokhber who had also attended the meeting with Oji on Sunday to discuss establishment of the mentioned petrochemical

parks, emphasized that dynamism in the petrochemical fields is one of the country's main advantages.

"The marine economy and the oil industry value chain in southern Iran are very important and should be focused on by the 13th government with proper and timed planning for the prosperity of this part of the country's economy," Mokhber said.

The first vice president considered the establishment of petrochemical parks and petro-refineries on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman as a major driving force for the maritime economy and job creation in the region and added: "The implementation of these petrochemical settlements on the seashore is one of the important and priority plans of the government."

## Iran, Kazakhstan to launch pilot sea-rail transit route

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan has reached an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran for using the country's rail network and the southern Shahid Rajaei Port for transiting goods to the Central Asian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) regions.

According to Hossein Abbasnejad, the director general of the Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province, to this end, the two sides are going to implement a pilot sea-rail transport project which will be launched at the beginning of the next year.

Pointing to a recent visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan Zhumangarin Serik to Shahid Rajaei Port, Abbasnejad noted that the two sides have agreed to jointly cooperate in implementing the project.

The official noted that due to the conditions created after the Russia-Ukraine war, one of the important issues concerning the transit of commodities is using the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) which has gained Iran a special position in terms of export and import in the eyes of the Central Asian and CIS countries.

Kazakhstan is among the states that have expressed readiness to transit their goods via Shahid Rajaei Port, he said, adding that Astana and Tehran pursue joint ventures to develop investment in the transit sector.

According to the official, a technical committee of representatives from both countries is going to be formed within the next two months in order to discuss mechanisms and requirements to implement the joint venture, including a plan for transferring container freight goods from



Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province Hossein Abbasnejad (2nd R) and Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Zhumangarin Serik (1st L) visit Iran's Shahid Rajaei Port on November 1.

northern Iran to Shahid Rajaei Port via railway.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Abbasnejad said that Kazakhstan's prime minister is scheduled to visit Iran by the year-end and Kazakh authorities are keen on initiating joint economic activities at Shahid Rajaei Port at the same time.

Heading a high-ranking delegation comprised of representatives of governmental entities and private sector companies, Serik visited Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Hormozgan province on November 1 with the aim of inspecting the potential for investment in terminals of the Iranian port.

During his visit to Iran, the Kazakh delegation was also received by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

After his meeting with Serik, Qasemi said the two sides have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop cooperation in

the transportation and transit sectors.

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.

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

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.

In early October, Kazakhstan Prime Minister Alikhan Ashanuly Smayilov 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.

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.

## Commodities worth nearly \$478m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,032,025 million tons of commodities worth nearly \$478 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.597 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$249 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,162,735 tons of cement, 130,000 tons of iron ore, 199,645 tons of steel, 77,500 tons of sponge iron, 15,020 tons of zinc, 7,325 tons of aluminum, 8,709 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 78 kg of

gold bars and 251 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 428,957 tons of commodities worth nearly \$222 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 93,994 tons of polymeric products, 110,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 60,000 tons of lube cut, 33,486 tons of chemicals, 2,000 tons of sulfur, 5,847 tons of base oil, 300 tons of insulation and 122,780 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 5,934 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 10,619,520

tons of commodities worth over \$2.3 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Mehr (ended on October 22).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1.719 million tons of commodities valued at nearly \$850 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 472,010 tons of vacuum bottom, 528,404 tons of bitumen, 357,011 tons of polymeric products, 160,000 tons of lube cut, 148,706 tons of chemicals, 25,200 tons of sulfur, 12,453 tons of oil and 3,870 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 8.812 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.5 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4.637 million tons of cement, 1.627 million tons of steel, 1.952 million tons of iron ore, 512,000 tons of sponge iron, 34,375 tons of aluminum, 34,255 tons of zinc, 28,731 tons of copper, 800 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 39 tons of precious metals concentrate and 73 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 87,534 tons commodities.

## Tax revenues rise 63% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN - Iran's tax incomes during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22) rose 63 percent compared to the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported on Monday quoting an official with Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA).

According to Mehdi Movahedi, head of INTA's Education, Research, and Planning Office, his organization has collected 2.709 quadrillion rials (about \$71 billion) of taxes during the seven-month period of this year, while the figure was 1.66 trillion rials (about \$5.75 billion) in the same time span of the past year.

During the first seven months of the present year, INTA has managed to realize the tax income plan for the current period by 102 percent.

In late October, INTA Head Davoud Manzour said the government's average monthly tax

collections have increased by 80 percent in the current Iranian calendar year as compared to the previous year.

According to Manzour, last year every month about 250 trillion rials (about \$864 million) of taxes were collected on average, while the figure has reached 450 trillion rials (\$1.55 billion) in the current year, Tasnim news agency reported.

According to the official, INTA has been taking serious measures for battling tax evasion so that the organization has discovered more than 170 cases over the past year and the violators have been faced with heavy penalties.

There are many methods of tax evasion and one of the most common is the creation of shell companies, he explained.

"Unfortunately, there are many problems in

the regulations and laws regarding company establishment and there is no necessary strictness. We see such cases with regard to business cards and credit cards as well," the official added.

Back in September, INTA announced that the country's tax revenues stood at 1.853 quadrillion rials (about \$6.4 billion) in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

As reported, of the mentioned figure, 1.17 quadrillion rials (about \$4.04 billion) was direct tax, and 670 trillion rials (about \$2.31 billion) was indirect tax collected in the five-month period.

Iran's tax income reached over 3.54 quadrillion rials (about \$12.2 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

from page 1 ▶ The latest election by the occupation regime does indicate it will be more authoritarian as it is set to involve far-right criminals such as Itamar Ben-Gvir, who has been explicitly calling for the removal of all Palestinians from their homeland and publicly urges settlers to storm the al-Aqsa Mosque. Ben-Gvir himself squats on one of the many settlements, which are illegal under international law, yet are expanding in numbers amid the regime's disregard for any aspect of international rule and law.

But the very extremist Zionist right-wing of Netanyahu's expected coalition does raise questions about the shape of the recent growing violence in the militarily occupied West Bank, especially in light of the escalating resistance operations in the territory.

The current state of the armed resistance emerging in the West Bank represents a fundamental challenge to the entire occupation system, and none of the leaders of the terrorist parties differ in their assessment about the dangers and risks of the armed struggle against the occupation.

There is a degree of unanimity among the security officials and the vast occupation army over this new equation imposed by the resistance, especially the Lion's Den Brigade that has conducted sophisticated, tactical and retaliatory operations over the past year, posing strong challenges to the regime's security apparatus.

Therefore, any attempts to break the expanding resistance in the West Bank, and the nature of dealing with it, is a matter of real concern within the regime itself about the future balance of power in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli media suggest the regime's security assessments of the size and nature of the potential dangers of any military action in the West Bank are extremely challenging, regardless of the future military policies of Netanyahu. The risks Netanyahu



## Netanyahu vs. the Lion's Den Brigade

faces if he wages any military action are based on several aspects.

There are fears that the situation is becoming uncontrollable for the regime. It may lead to a complete collapse of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. This will have severe consequences for Israel as it will essentially see the end of the "security coordination" system between the Palestinian Authority and the regime, which is seen by the Zionist entity as a strategic investment for occupation.

The increasing strength and effectiveness of launching retaliatory operation by the Lion's Den Brigade and Jenin Brigade resistance movements indicates that any widespread military operation in the West Bank will enable these groups to withstand the Israeli invasions for weeks, or perhaps months, and this new Palestinian steadfastness would greatly enhance the possibilities of an explosion in the West Bank.

There is a strong possibility that should any military operation take place under Netanyahu, the presence of armed resistance factions in the besieged Gaza Strip and their increased military capabilities, as seen over the past decade, will directly enter the

confrontation in support of the Lion's Den.

Then comes the regional forces of resistance, especially on Israel's northern front in Lebanon, which the occupation regime cannot guarantee that Hezbollah will remain silent, if Gaza enters the front line. The situation may spiral out of control, leading to an escalation that include other resistance fronts in addition to the those in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Since all of these risks are a reality for Israel, it is likely that the Netanyahu cabinet will follow the same path as its predecessor in dealing with the emerging resistance of the Lion's Den in the occupied West Bank.

Meanwhile, the rise to power of the ever-increasing extremist and racist criminals remains an influential matter by considering other aspects. Netanyahu will be obligated to give some of them ministerial portfolios to cling on to power. The Palestinians must take into account the possibility of an escalation in the settlers' hostile actions in the not-so-distant future, in addition to the possibility of a significant increase in settlers' incursions into the al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the possibility of increasing provocative actions against

Palestinian Islamic and Christian holy sites.

The parties participating in Netanyahu's camp, such as the so-called "Jewish Power" and Religious Zionism, explicitly call for the expulsion of the Palestinians and the demolition of al-Aqsa Mosque in order to replace it with their alleged temple, but this has already been declared as a red line for the Palestinian resistance factions in all the occupied and besieged territories. Palestinians have proven, throughout history, that they are willing to spill their blood to protect their holy sites and land.

In light of such a situation, the settlers' provocations and attacks will be met with stronger responses from the Palestinians. Here the occupation will find itself facing the same dangers that it is trying to avoid by not carrying out large-scale military invasions across the occupied cities, towns and villages.

Therefore, the success of these fascist models in the Knesset election may be a catalyst in accelerating the ignition of the West Bank, which is already in a state of volatility.

The results of the Knesset elections appear to indicate an additional threat to the future of Palestine, but they can be considered in depth as a fresh opportunity for the Palestinians to achieve a new and tangible achievement on the path to fully liberate stolen lands, especially in light of the weakening ability of the regime to respond the resistance in case it wages military conflicts against the Palestinians.

The days when the entity was able to wage wars against the Palestinians for an extensive period of time are over. The Israelis waged a war in August this year on the Gaza Strip that lasted three days.

Israel can still murder civilians, in particular women and children, but it is struggling to contain the growing resistance of Lion's Den Brigade.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### North Korea: Missile tests were practice to attack South, US



North Korea's military said Monday its recent barrage of missile tests were practices to "mercilessly" strike key South Korean and U.S. targets such as air bases and operation command systems with a variety of missiles that likely included nuclear-capable weapons.

The North's announcement underscored leader Kim Jong Un's determination not to back down in the face of his rivals' push to expand their military exercises. But some experts say Kim also used their drills as an excuse to modernize his nuclear arsenal and increase his leverage in future dealings with Washington and Seoul.

North Korea fired dozens of missiles and flew warplanes toward the sea last week — triggering evacuation alerts in some South Korean and Japanese areas — in protest of massive U.S.-South Korean air force drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

U.S. and South Korean officials responded they would further enhance their joint training events and warned the North that the use of nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's regime.

"The recent corresponding military operations by the Korean People's Army are a clear answer of (North Korea) that the more persistently the enemies' provocative military moves continue, the more thoroughly and mercilessly the KPA will counter them," the General Staff of North Korea's military said in a statement carried by state media.

It said the weapons tests involved ballistic missiles loaded with dispersion warheads and underground infiltration warheads meant to launch strikes on enemy air bases; ground-to-air missiles designed to "annihilate" enemy aircraft at different altitudes and distances; and strategic cruise missiles that fell in international waters about 80 kilometers (50

miles) off South Korea's southeastern coastal city of Ulsan.

The North's military said it also carried out an important test of a ballistic missile with a special functional warhead missioned with "paralyzing the operation command system of the enemy." This could mean a simulation of electromagnetic pulse attacks, but some observers doubt whether North Korea has mastered key technologies to obtain such an attack capability.

### Ukrainian 'threats' to resume nuclear program main reason for 'special military operation': Medvedev

Ukraine's "threats" to resume its nuclear program were largely the reason for Moscow's "special military operation," Russia's former president said on Monday.

One of the reasons for conducting the "special military operation" were the "threats" by Ukrainian leaders that hinted resumption of the nuclear program, which Kyiv relinquished under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, Dmitry Medvedev, who currently serves as the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, wrote in a message on the country's VK social network.

"What do we see in contrast next to our own borders? Poor puppets from an inferior state, now weeping bitterly about the decision taken under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 to withdraw the nuclear arsenal located on their territory and inherited from the USSR," Medvedev said, following statements describing South Africa's accession process to the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Later, Medvedev said that Ukrainians always perceived Kyiv's accession to the international treaty as a forced step decided "under harsh pressure from Washington," adding that this was the case even though Ukraine "did not have the means to support the 'might' (nuclear weapons) that had fallen to it by chance."

He further said Ukrainian leaders, from former President Leonid Kravchuk to current President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have expressed that "they would be happy to use it (nuclear weapons) against us (Russia) and their own citizens (Ukrainians)."

## Taliban reveal burial place of founder Mullah Omar

The Taliban on Sunday revealed the final resting place of the movement's founder, Mullah Omar, whose death and burial they kept secret for years.

Rumors surrounding Omar's health and whereabouts abounded after the Taliban were kicked out of power in 2001 by a U.S.-led invasion, and they only admitted in April 2015 that he had died two years earlier.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Agence France-Presse Sunday that senior

leaders of the movement attended a ceremony at his gravesite earlier in the day near Omarzo, in Suri district of Zabul province.

The Taliban returned to power in August last year, routing government forces as the U.S.-led military that propped up the regime ended a 20-year occupation.

"Since a lot of enemies were around and the country was occupied, to avoid damage to the tomb it was kept secret," Mujahid said. "Only the close family members were aware of the place."

Pictures released by officials showed Taliban leaders gathered around a simple white brick tomb, covered with what appears to be gravel and enclosed in a green metal cage.

"Now the decision has been made... there are no issues for the people to visit the tomb," Mujahid said.

Omar, who was around 55 years old when he died, founded the Taliban in 1993 as an antidote to the internecine civil war that erupted following the decade-long Soviet occupation.

## Biden, Trump make final appeals day before crucial US midterms

An election year that has unfolded against the backdrop of economic turmoil, the elimination of federal abortion rights and broad concerns about the future of democracy is concluding with a final full day of campaigning in which leaders of both parties will issue urgent appeals to their supporters.

President Joe Biden was holding a Monday evening rally in Maryland, where Democrats have one of their best opportunities to reclaim a Republican-held governor's seat. The appearance is in line with Biden's late-campaign strategy of sticking largely to Democratic

strongholds rather than stumping in the more competitive territory, where control of Congress may ultimately be decided.

Biden's predecessor Donald Trump was to hold his final rally of the campaign in Ohio. As he readies another run for the White House, Ohio holds special meaning for the former president because it was one of the first places where he was able to prove his enduring power among Republican voters.

His backing of JD Vance was crucial in helping the author and venture capitalist — and one-time Trump critic — secure the GOP's nomination for a Senate seat.

With more than 41 million ballots already cast, Monday's focus was to ensure that supporters either meet early voting deadlines or make plans to show up in person on Tuesday. The results will have a powerful effect on the final two years of Biden's presidency, shaping policy on everything from government spending to military support for Ukraine.

In the first national election since the violent January 6 insurrection, the final days of the campaign focused on fundamental questions about the nation's political values.

Campaigning in New York for Governor Kathy Hochul on Sunday,

Biden said Republicans were willing to condone last year's mob attack at the US Capitol and that, after the recent assault on Paul Pelosi, husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, some in that party made "light of it" or were "making excuses."

"There's never been a time in my career where we've glorified violence based on a political preference," the president said.

Meanwhile, during a Sunday evening Trump rally in Miami, a reference to Nancy Pelosi prompted chants of "Lock her up!" — a stark reminder of the nation's deep political divide.

## Mass weddings in Yemen



10,044 couples tied the knots in a huge joint ceremony in Yemen.

In the ceremony held in front of a mosque in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, the couples celebrated the wedding ceremony and started a new life together.

Wearing traditional clothes with swords to their waists, the youth started their life together amid the economic problems facing the country. These problems have been caused due to more than seven years of war imposed on Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition coupled with economic blockade.

Sword dance, mass dances, and cheering were among the programs of the mass wedding ceremony.

Zakat Public institute was the sponsor of the program.

It was the third year that mass wedding was held in the Republic of Yemen.

Zakat Institute has announced that the ceremony is for those who could not afford to get married and poverty locked them in a single life.

The mass wedding included orphans, those disabled in the war, some foreign nationals living in Yemen, and other victims of the economic blockade.

The ceremony is one of the biggest ones in Yemen and neighboring countries in which officials and media attended.

## Imran Khan asks Pakistan's president to investigate military

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked President Arif Alvi to initiate an inquiry into a news conference held by Pakistan's powerful intelligence agency, which he has accused of orchestrating the attack on him.

In a letter to the president, Khan referred to the event held last month by Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum, chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"How can two military bureaucrats do a highly political press conference targeting the leader of the largest federal political party,"

wrote Khan, the head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

At the unprecedented news conference on October 27, Anjum was accompanied by Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar, the chief of the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Khan is recovering at home in Lahore after he was discharged from hospital on Sunday. Last week, he was wounded in the leg in an apparent assassination attempt during a protest rally in Wazirabad in the eastern province of Punjab.

"I am requesting you to act now to stop the abuse of power and violations of our laws and constitutions," he wrote, also asking that the president define ISPR's role.

Khan has provided no evidence to back his accusations.

There has been no response so far to the letter from either the president, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces, or the military.

## Tourism infrastructure being developed in Burnt City



TEHRAN –The tourism infrastructure is being developed in the UNESCO-registered Burnt city, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of over 34 billion rials (\$114,000) has been allocated to the project, Mojtaba Sa'adatian explained on Monday.

Called "Shahr-e Sukhteh" in Persian, the UNESCO-registered Burnt City is associated with four rounds of civilization, all mysteriously burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire. It is situated in Sistan-Baluchestan

province, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the semi-arid plateau.

Founded around 3200 BC, the Burnt City was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, and creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

Sistan-Baluchestan is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including the historical Seb castle, dating back to the time of the Safavids (1501-1736); Darak beach, where sand dunes, palm trees, and blue sea in a frame together create picturesque sceneries; Darren Negaran (literally meaning illustration of the valley) which is home to tens of carved pictures of different animals such as wild cows, camels, and antelopes; Chabahar beach, which is the only oceanic port of Iran; and Martian mountains with colors varying from gray to white during the day due to intensity of the daylight.

## Workshop on ecotourism held in Qaen

TEHRAN –A workshop was held on Saturday in Qaen, a city in the eastern province of South Khorasan, with the aim of promoting ecotourism in the region.

The event highlighted the value of respecting nature, planning for advertising and information, honoring local indigenous cultures, welcoming incoming tours, and learning about different aspects of nature tourism, Hamid Abbaszadeh, Qaen's tourism chief said.

The one-day event was attended by 28 tourism activists of the city as well as those interested in nature tourism, the official added.

South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Poland Desert.

It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

As a four-season country with pristine and beautiful nature in different parts of the country, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists. Eco-lodge units in rural areas and the heart of nature, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, smoke, and pollution, could free people from the chaos and turmoil of modern life.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and



stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to experience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in these eco-lodge units is much cheaper than other accommodation centers.

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

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

## Story of old village attributed to Persian troglodytes



TEHRAN – The term "cave dwellers" conjures up prehistoric images of rocky shelters as primary habitations for the human being.

The UNESCO-registered Maymand is an ancient site of rocky manmade shelters in southern Iran, where people made a living about five or six millennia ago.

Sandwiched between a desert and a mountain, Maymand has cold winters and exceedingly hot summers yet abundant with mulberry and blackberry trees.

Living conditions in the village are considered severe due to the aridity of the

land, high temperatures in the summer, and very cold winters.

It is believed to be one of the most important human abodes in the country as its history dates back to around 10,000 years ago. Some of the natural and man-made caves are still used for accommodation and shelter.

The houses of the continuously inhabited village are carved into mountain-like caves. The interior spaces have corridors and pillars with rural architecture. The houses are four or five floors above each other.

Evidence suggests that the first inhabitants did not use a hammer and chisel, but a type of local pointed stone hard enough to carve images into rocks. This carving method is still practiced in the region. Some of the stone carvings in the village date back 10,000 years.

Nowadays, the majority of inhabitants are semi-nomadic shepherds. They raise animals on mountain pastures, living in temporary settlements in spring and autumn.

# First cruise ship route to make debut in Bandar Abbas

TEHRAN – For the first time in the country, a cruise ship route is planned to be inaugurated in Bandar Abbas, southern Hormozgan province, the tourism minister has said.

Allocating subsidized fuel could be an effective mechanism to boost maritime tourism investment and development as one of the missions of this ministry, Ezzatollah Zarghami explained on Sunday.

Over time, there will be more vessels, docks, terminals, and equipment necessary to serve passengers and tourists, he added.

The Iranian tourism industry, especially that related to marine tourism, is anticipating Doha's response regarding docking this ship in Qatar during the World Cup, the minister stated.

Back in August, the minister announced that there would be an acceleration in the development of maritime tourism.

Fuel subsidies will be allocated to cruise ships, which will lead to a reduction in sea travel costs and a rise in maritime tourism, the minister said.

With this subsidy, fuel consumption for a cruise with 1000 passengers will be reduced from 600 billion rials (\$2 million) to 500 million rials (\$1,700), he explained.



Earlier in May, Zarghami and Qatar's Minister of Culture and Sports Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani met in Tehran, exchanging views on how to facilitate tourism during the World Cup.

The two countries discussed ways to further deepen tourism, cultural heritage, and handicraft ties by taking advantage of the World Cup opportunity in Qatar.

Zarghami suggested setting up a committee to plan and coordinate ideas and to make the most of the World Cup's capacity.

Back in April, the Iranian media

reported that the government mulled over a visa simplification procedure at the suggestion of its Foreign Ministry to draw spectators from neighboring Qatar, which plays host to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in November and December.

The Iranian government plans to grant a free visa to citizens whose national football teams qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar for a one-time or a two-time period with a validity period of two months and a 30-day stay.

The minister said many people are interested in visiting Iran for its historical attractions and

eco-tourism, to name a few.

### Coastal and maritime tourism

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic has made various efforts to exploit maritime tourism potential by developing hospitality infrastructures, diversifying sea routes, and drawing private sector investors along its vast southern coasts.

Prosperous maritime tourism could help the country to meet its ambitious target of attracting 20 million annual tourists by 2025. It also keeps an eye on tourism developments in the Caspian Sea in the north.

Back in February, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop maritime tourism and make the best use of its potential on the southern and northern coasts of the country.

Promoting the culture of using the sea as a tool to increase social vitality, developing coastal activities in the form of environmentally friendly plans and programs, and creating the necessary grounds for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information was also among the topics of the agreement.

## How did ancient Iranians make ice before freezers?

By Afshin Majlesi

from page 1 ▶ A typical Yakhchal would rise some 15 meters or so, and on the inside, it would contain vast spaces for storage. The evaporative cooling system in the facilities functioned as wind traps and water was supplied via qanat from nearby wells, common culvert systems in the region designed to transport water through communities and various structures.

Evaporative cooling effortlessly lowered the temperatures inside the Yakhchal, giving a cool feeling that you are actually standing in a full-size fridge.

The walls are constructed intelligently using special mortar with components such as egg whites and goat hair that provide marvelous insulation and protection from the hot desert sun.

A closer look at its mechanism reveals quite some interesting facts. At night, the Earth stays warm through the famous greenhouse effect, in which gases in the atmosphere help trap the Sun's warmth. But on clear nights with low humidity, this effect is weaker, and objects can radiate their heat directly into space—a process called radiative cooling. The Persians found that this allowed thin layers of water in purpose-built trenches to drop to a low enough temperature to freeze—even after hot days



in the desert.

Most Yakhchals have an underground square-shaped containment area, which is surmounted by a dome-shaped structure. Such trenches at the bottom were designed to collect any water coming from molten ice. Once collected, that amount of water was then refrozen during nighttime, making maximum use of the resource as well as the cold desert night temperatures. It is a repetitive process.

The water collection area had to be deep enough to stay cool, and the material from which the Yakhchal was made had to be insulating enough to keep the heat out.

Water was brought to the Yakhchal either by transporting ice directly from nearby mountains or by diverting water from an aqueduct into the Yakhchal via underground water channels called qanats.

To make lower temperatures inside, particularly during the middle of the day, they made an east-west oriented wall adjacent to some Yakhchals on the south side of the refrigerator.

Another trick used to keep the Yakhchal cool is a badgir, a type of wind-catching mechanism that catches the breeze and directs it toward the Yakhchal.

When the air came down, it was cooled by the ice and fresh air that accompanied the water in the qanat. Otherwise, badgir could be used to increase hot air and cold air to replace it. This mechanism is still used in many desert cities in modern Iran.

Once the water was frozen, it was cut into blocks to allow the water to be easily carried out of the Yakhchal.

The use of Yakhchal has ceased in modern times, and although some structures have been damaged and eroded by desert storms, many are still intact in Iran and some of its neighboring countries, as far as Tajikistan.

Over the past couple of years, tens of abandoned Yakhchals have been restored this time as travel destinations with the help of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicraft with the close collaboration of the local people, travel insiders, and devotees of cultural heritage.

## Private sector launch tourism projects in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN –A total of 50 tourism-related projects launched by the private sector are currently underway across the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 12 trillion rials (\$40 billion) has been channeled into the projects, CHTN quoted Mojtaba Mirhosseini as saying on Monday.

Hotels, apartment hotels, traditional restaurants, and eco-lodge units are parts of the projects, the official added.

The projects are estimated to generate over 150 job opportunities upon their completion, he noted.

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.

### Projects underway nationwide

Back in September, the tourism ministry announced that tourism-related projects worth three quadrillion rials (\$10 billion) are currently underway across Iran.

According to the ministry some of the projects, which are under construction in different provinces, have achieved 70 percent physical progress.

A total of 183 projects were also inaugurated nationwide during national tourism week (September 27-October 3), with a budget of 310 trillion rials (\$1.1 billion).

These projects, which included

hotels, apartment hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, and tourist complexes, generated some 2200 job opportunities.

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

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

TEHRAN – An international conference on the occasion of the World Soil Day will be held in Pars Special Economic Energy Zone in Bushehr province.

With the slogan “Soil protection, industry, and food security” the event will be participated by representatives of international organizations and local officials.

The Department of Environment, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Agriculture, and representatives of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are scheduled to take part in the conference on December 5.

The importance of soil protection in providing food security, the importance of soil protection in the development of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, solutions for cleaning soils contaminated with hydrocarbon substances, investigating the effects of hydrocarbon pollution and the functioning structure of the soil ecosystem and food security, the application of new technologies and knowledge-based ecosystem are among the main topics of this conference.

On the sidelines of this conference, successful knowledge-based companies will present achievements with new soil cleaning methods, soil protection, and environmental pollution prevention in an exhibition.

In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) made a resolution proposing December 5 to be World Soil Day in order to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human well-being.

This natural resource hosts over 25 percent of biodiversity and about 90 percent of living organisms spend part of their life cycle in the soil; it also plays an important role in supporting animal biodiversity above ground, including wild-



## Bushehr to host World Soil Day conference

The importance of soil in food security, the development of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, and the knowledge-based ecosystem are among the main topics of this conference.

life and domesticated livestock.

The most widely recognized function of the soil is its support for food production. It is estimated that 95% of our food is directly

or indirectly produced on the soil. Healthy soil supplies the essential nutrients, water, and oxygen that our food-producing plants need to grow and flourish.

Soil is also crucial for ensuring the continued growth and maintenance of natural and managed vegetation, including diverse forests and grasslands and the huge breadth of species and varieties that are cultivated or managed for their food, feed, fuel, fiber, and medicinal products.

**Soil erosion 8 times above global average**

According to the latest statistics, Iran loses 2 billion tons of soil annually, according to the 2018 report of the United Nations Development Program, the total amount of global soil erosion is 24 billion tons, so one-twelfth of all global soil erosion occurs in Iran.

This is while, Iran has about

one percent of the world's land area, which means that its erosion rate is eight times higher than the global average, so Iran is suffering from severe degradation and soil erosion.

To understand the importance of soil protection, it should be said that it takes an average of 400 years to form a centimeter of soil on the planet.

In Iran, due to the severe erosion, it takes an estimated 800 years to produce a centimeter of soil, so the attention of the people and the government should be on average twice the global average.

Each ton of soil is valued at \$28 in terms of metal ores, so the loss of two billion tons of soil annually means an annual loss of \$56 billion, which is more than revenues from the sale of oil and agricultural products, gardens, livestock, poultry, and fisheries.

## Eight faculties of traditional medicine operating in universities

TEHRAN – A total of eight faculties and 13 educational groups of Iranian traditional medicine are operating in universities of medical sciences, Nafiseh Hosseini Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, has said.

So far, 400 people have graduated at the doctorate level, and 400 students are studying in this field, she added.

She went on to note that one of the important issues for the Ministry of Health is to facilitate the establishment of Iranian traditional medicine faculties in the country, expressing hope to establish several faculties by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2023).

Apothecaries are completely active in the field of medicinal herbs, however, offering and renewing the license of apothecaries in Tehran is subject to passing an educational and scientific course, she stated.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sau-

da'). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species which is more than the whole of species found in Europe.

Some 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country, accounting for one-third of the medicines used in human societies.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United

**Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.**



States is 2.5 kilograms.

The export revenue of medicinal plants is estimated at \$700 million, the caretaker of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, Rouhollah Dehghani, said.

Iran ranks fourth worldwide in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine, and the remarkable achievement will improve in the coming years, Hosseini Yekta announced.

Over 17,000 books have so far been published about Persian traditional medicine, which has been recognized by the World Health Organization, she noted.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Female Asiatic lion to join male companion in Iran

Iran will play host to a female Asiatic lion from Ireland to accompany the recently returned male lion under a population management program aiming at endangered species reproduction by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), a veterinarian at Eram Zoo has said.

The female lion, born 4 years ago, now is coming back to its motherland after being extinct for 8 decades, YJC quoted Iman Memarian as saying on Saturday.

He went on to say that the lion has undergone genetic tests and diagnostics under the EAZA supervision, and the results have showed that the animal is completely healthy.

Both will be kept at Tehran Zoological Garden separately for a period, and then will live together, Memarian concluded.

## شیر ماده ایرانی به جفت نر خود می پیوندد

دامپزشک پارک پردیسان و مدیر باغ وحش ارم از پیوستن شیر ماده ایرانی از ایرلند به جفت نر خود تحت نظر برنامه تکثیر گونه‌های در خطر انقراض خبر داد.

ایمان معماریان در گفتگو با خبرنگار حوزه محیط زیست گروه اجتماعی باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، اظهار کرد: شیرماده ایرانی که در باغ وحش دوبلین ایرلند به دنیا آمده و ۴ ساله است، پس از ۸۰ سال در راه بازگشت به وطن است.

وی افزود: شیر ماده ایرانی از نظر ژنتیک و نبود بیماری چک شده و هیچ گونه مشکلی نداشته، این شیر پس از استانداردسازی مورد تایید اتحادیه باغ وحش‌های اروپا به ایران جابه جا شد.

دامپزشک پارک پردیسان و مدیر باغ وحش ارم ادامه داد: دو شیر ماده و نر ایرانی مدتی جدا از هم زیست خواهند کرد و به صورت تدریجی این دوگونه به هم معرفی خواهند شد.

## Science and technology tourism regulated

From page 1 ▶ In general, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the top 1% of the world has grown significantly since 2018.

The number of Iranian scientists on this list in 2018 was 249, which increased by 340 percent in four years, as it reached 841 in 2022.

Science and technology tourism is designed with the aim of introducing the capacities and advances of science and technology in all regions of Iran to the people, Mohammad Mahdi Zolfaqarzadeh, director of policy and planning office of Cultural and Social Affairs of the Ministry of Science, said.

When Iranian families travel to a city; apart from visiting historical monuments, natural resorts, museums, etc., they should also visit science and technology areas using the facilities considered in the regulations, he explained.

This regulation must be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and the Plan and Budget Organization, he noted.

If the progress and capabilities of the country are narrated correctly, artistically, and elegantly, its function is not only to inform; Rather, it can have more effective effects, including creating hope and giving identity to elites and students, he highlighted.

The program includes the visit of university students and professors to the scientific and cultural developments achieved in the set of higher education institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Science, he added.

**Iran second most innovative country in region**

According to the Global Innovation Index (GII 2022) report, Iran is the second most innovative country in the Central and South Asian region and the third among low-middle income countries.

With 7 ranks of promotion compared to 2021, Iran has been ranked 53rd in the world, second in the Central and South Asian region, and third in low-middle income countries, and for the second consecutive year, the innovation development rate is higher than expected.

## DESERTS IN IRAN

Part 2

In Central Asia the Turkic term takyr is used, and farther east the Mongolian term nor is found. West of the plateau the most common term is Arabic sabka.

Iranian kavirs have attracted special interest (see especially the works of Bobek; Gabrieli; Stratil-Sauer; and Krinsley, but the most accessible description and explanation is in Jackson et al., pp. 7-14; see also Cooke and Warren, pp. 215-28 for comparative discussion) and may be unique in the variety of their composition and surface types.

They offer a prospect of desolate waste that extends almost continuously from within 50 km of Tehran to Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. To H. B. Vaughan, the first European to provide a firsthand description, the



**Science, technology advancement with knowledge-based ecosystem**

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of the GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

The plan aims to introduce capacities and advances of the science and technology sector.

The knowledge-based ecosystem is a newly-emerged ecosystem but has so far been able to solve many of the country's problems.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund affiliated with the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 170 trillion rials (nearly \$650 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the past 4 years.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

kavir looked like “a vast frozen sea stretching away . . . as far as the eye could reach in one vast glittering expanse” (1893, p. 105).

As similar landscapes lie close to many of the major cities of Iranian history kavir is often considered to be the characteristically Iranian desert type. It is composed of fine-grained sediments, saline to varying degrees, accumulated at the lowest part of a closed drainage basin in conditions where evaporation far exceeds precipitation and runoff.

The texture varies according to the nature of the sediments, which may be silts or clays. The surface is often level, smooth, and hard, dry except after rain and ideal for all forms of transport.

To be continued

Source: Iranica

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 7

New cases	360
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,558,502
Total deaths	144,600
New hospitalized patients	60
Patients in critical condition	99
Total recovered patients	7,333,139
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,420,785
Doses of vaccine injected	155,005,489



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NOVEMBER 8, 2022

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Failures are often the results of timidity and fears;  
disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of  
leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not waste  
opportunity of doing good.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:22 Dawn: 5:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

## Shahnameh: Haft Khan

Part 3

The fight with the dragon in the third is, in conformity with the texture of the entire episode, a more elaborate affair, involving a special chariot with spikes.

In the fourth ordeal, the talismanic armband originating from Zoroaster himself, recalls Esfandiar's role as a sanctified prince and defender of the faith, an image reinforced in the fifth ordeal by his supplication to the Almighty after killing Simorgh (Anqa in the Arabic versions), the famous mythical bird and helper of Rostam, regarded as an evil supernatural being in this context.

The challenge of the snowstorm in the sixth ordeal, and the initial reluctance of his entourage to face imminent death, echoing the disappearance of Kaykhosrow at the end of his reign, again reinforces the communal aspect of Esfandiar's khans, and is reflected in its social and political vocabulary of gift-giving and contractual obligations.

After that, they all cross the river, which is the seventh "course," and Esfandiar asks Gorgsar how he would feel after they devastate the Turanian lands. Gorgsar retorts that he wishes Esfandiar ill, whereupon Esfandiar kills him.

As stressed above, Rostam goes through his seven ordeals completely alone, with the exception of his horse, whereas Esfandiar has an army, a minister, a brother, and a guide from the very beginning.

It should be noted in this context, that in his brief account of the Haft Khan, Tabari allots others in the quest, Fashutan, Azarnush, and Mehrin, a share in the final victory.

Esfandiar's entourage seems to be there to underscore his "princely rank," for what is a prince without followers, or even better, what prince will act without some sort of consultant, that is, Gorgsar, to guide him every step of the way?

Hence, though Esfandiar leaves organized society, that is, Iran proper, to go to Turan, a place that is constantly threatening to disrupt the order of Iran, he keeps a link with this ordered society in the form of the organized army, ministers, and so on, who accompany him.

If one regards each hero's haft khan as an instance of the warrior's separation from society, as part of a "rite of passage," then Esfandiar is "marked" (to use a Jacobsonian term of the Prague School of Linguistics) whereas Rostam is "unmarked," in that both are warriors but Esfandiar is a sovereign as well as a warrior.

Hence, the two haft khans are distinct battle-narratives framed by distinct banquet-settings, ostensibly enjoyed by the hero but also dramatizing the context of the recitation of the narrative itself.

This can be taken even further if we look at the two heroes' songs while they are at a banquet before they encounter their respective sorceresses.

Rostam sings about himself in the third person, how hard his life is fighting all alone in the wilderness, like an outcast, where the wilderness must serve him as a cultivated garden.

He mourns that he will never experience the ordered or cultured garden. He will



"Rostam Kills the Dragon," a folio from the Shahnameh of Shah Ismail II created in 1576-77, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada.

always be an outsider, that is, a liminal figure. Esfandiar, on the other hand, has quite a different song, switches from the third to the first person halfway, and ends with a set description of an ideal beauty.

In comparing these two passages, one may note that they accurately describe the nature of their respective heroes. Rostam is a "loner," or an outsider, and always will be out of synchrony with society, whereas Esfandiar is a prince and thereby potentially embodies the very essence of the body politic.

Both, however, yearn for a civilized dinner in a well-structured social setting. The audience, however, who is listening to their respective songs while they literally feast, is also enjoying its own feast, that is, all seven courses of the haft khan that the hero is performing.

The difference in the mimetic function of the two episodes, alluded to at the outset, can be further clarified by using sources not available or not exploited by earlier scholars. In this context, Shahmardan ibn Abil-Khayr's Nozhat-nama-ye Alai, written in 1119-20, provides an early counterpart to Ta'alebi's Ghorar.

On the one hand, it dismisses much of the adventures of Rostam as "mere" fable, and on the other, admits to their charm and attraction and provides possible explanations to make the story, including the blindness of Kavus, confirm to common notions of verisimilitude (with a brief description of Rostam's haft khan).

If the Sistani cycle could not be so readily absorbed into the later fictions of advice and adab literature, it retained its hold on other spheres of cultural imagination, from murals and book illustrations coveted and commissioned by princes (already pointed out in Ta'alebi, Ghorar), and the stock imagery of classical Persian poetry, to the oral stories collected by Abul-Qasem Enjavi Shirazi more than three decades ago among ordinary townspeople and villagers of all ages and regions of Iran.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica Concluded.

# Ammar film festival shifts focus to Iranian women's issues

From Page 1 ► Following his conversion to Shia Islam under the influence of the Islamic Revolution, Robin uses the name Soheil Asaad.

As a graduate of the Beirut Arab University in Lebanon and Al-Mustafa International University in Qom, he has been traveling across the world to promote Shia Islam.

"We are Hajji Nader's heirs; as his children, we will follow the path he chose," Asaad said at the press conference.

"The festival is unique in character, linking art, thought and media," he noted and added, "I was a stage actor when I was living in Argentina. It was vitally important for me to do everything in an artistic way. When I shifted to Islamic studies I pledged to myself to do everything based on thought."

"The Islamic Revolution should not confine its artistic and media activities only to national boundaries; this culture and lifestyle should be promoted as exemplary and a model for the world," he stated.



Ammar Popular Film Festival's new president Soheil Asaad in an undated photo.

As a cleric, Asaad said that was once a concern for him and so it's really necessary to do establishing "a Shia Hollywood" added, "Cinema is really powerful, whatever we can."

## Tallinn Black Nights festival jury picks film editor Hayedeh Safiyari

TEHRAN – The Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival has chosen Iranian film editor Hayedeh Safiyari to join the official competition jury of its 26th edition opening in the Estonian city on November 11.

A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Safiyari was also a member of the jury at the 2021 Tallinn Black Nights festival.

She has worked with many renowned Iranian filmmakers, including Asghar Farhadi, who had her collaboration for his Oscar-winning films "A Separation" and "The Salesman".

She has edited over 90 films and documentaries during her career spanning over thirty years and won awards at several Iranian and international events.

The Tallinn Black Nights festival jury also comprises director Ildikó Enyedi and her Hungarian fellow composer Ádám Balázs, German director Andreas Kleiner, and Indian actress and director Bijaya Jena.

Several Iranian films including, the acclaimed black-comedy "World War III" which is Iran's

submission to the international competition of the 2023 Oscars, will be screened in different sections of the festival.

Directed by Hooman Seyyedi, the film will be showcased in the Best of Fest category. It premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival, where it won the Orizzonti Award for Best Film and the best actor award for Mohsen Tanabandeh.

It also won the special jury prize at the 35th Tokyo International Film Festival last week.

This film follows Shakib, a homeless day laborer who never got over the loss of his wife and son in an earthquake years ago. Over the last couple of years, he has developed a relationship with a deaf and mute woman, Ladan. The construction site on which he works today turns out to be the set of a film about the atrocities committed by Hitler during WWII. Against all odds, he is given a movie role, a house and a chance at being somebody. When Ladan learns about this, she comes to his workplace begging for help. Shakib's scheme to hide her goes tragically wrong and threatens to



Film editor Hayedeh Safiyari in an undated photo.

ruin his newfound status and what seemed to be the opportunity of a lifetime.

"The Wastetown" by writer and director Ahmad Bahrami will be shown in the official competition.

"A Childless Village", Reza Jamali's funny film-in-film comedy will be screened in the Critics' Picks Competition of the festival.

In the Shorts Live-Action Competition, the Iranian-French production "Aban" by Abbas Taheri and Mahdieh Tusi will be screened.

## "The Lifters" coming to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "The Lifters" by American writer Dave Eggers has recently been published in Persian by Now, a major Iranian publishing house in Tehran.

Pejman Tehranian is the translator of the book first published in 2018.

It is a journey to an underground world where adventure awaits and heroes are made in this middle-grade novel from the bestselling, Pulitzer-nominated author of "The Monk of Mokha and Her Right Foot".

When Gran and his family move to Carousel, he has no idea that

the town is built atop a secret. Little does he suspect, as he walks his sister to school or casually eats a banana, that mysterious forces lurk mere inches beneath his feet, tearing up the earth like mini-hurricanes and causing the town to slowly but surely sink.

When Gran's friend, the difficult-to-impress Catalina Catalan, presses a silver handle into a hillside and opens a doorway to underground, he knows that she is extraordinary and brave, and that he will have no choice but to follow wherever she leads.

With luck on their side, and



A combination photo shows Dave Eggers and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novel "The Lifters".

some discarded hockey sticks for good measure, Gran and Catalina might just find a way to lift their town--and the known world--out of danger.

In "The Lifters", critically

acclaimed author Eggers establishes himself as a storyteller who can entertain and inspire readers of any age.

"[A] cozy contemporary novel about lifting spirits and rebuilding community through teamwork and imagination," Publishers Weekly wrote.

"A warm and rewarding read... Eggers skillfully handles the trope of the kids who save the town, with plenty of humorous adult cluelessness but an equal measure of compassion," The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books commented.

## The experience of a bitter life in the capital of ISIS



A review of the book "Life Under the Flag of ISIS"

Vahid Khazab's book "Life Under the Flag of ISIS" may be the most unique book written about the Syrian crisis, ISIS, and the "global war" in this country.

"Damascus' sedition" may be the ideal description for the current situation in

Syria and its war, because this issue has human, political, intellectual, and economic components. This subject necessitates thorough analysis and research, hence the book "The Life Under the Flag of ISIS" can be extremely beneficial.

This book is divided into three parts. The first part is about Samer, a young man from Raqqa. His family and he were regarded as strong opponents of the Syrian regime, and he actively participated in anti-government protests, but their efforts to oust the Syrian legal system from the area quickly led to the entry and dominance of ISIS over their city. So, for years, he and many other ordinary people were forced to live a terrible life under the ISIS flag.

These memoirs were written while ISIS was still present in Raqqa, and Samer delivered them to BBC reporters in other countries via various techniques (which are briefly detailed in the book), and they were published in English.

The book's second part is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is about a BBC

professional reporter and his account of what Americans did to the city of Raqqa, and the second chapter is about an agreement between US-backed forces and ISIS.

There are criminal organizations in the Syria crisis, ranging from the Western military aligned with Israel to various domestic, foreign, and transnational takfiri gangs. In such a scenario, the Islamic Republic of Iran and its main allies (such as Lebanon's Hezbollah) have clearly emphasized two things: the first is to support political and economic reforms in Syria and meet the demands of the Syrian people, and the second is to work with the Syrian regime to suppress terrorists.

We should also consider the fact that not just Iran and its allies, but even those who have strongly condemned some of the Syrian regime's actions, grasp the same issue and speak of the importance of standing up to this war in Syria.

Now available is "Life Under the Flag of ISIS," a 224-page book published by Soore Mehr.