Straight Truth

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Report

Iran UN envoy reiterates Tehran's impartial position on Ukraine

TEHRAN - Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the UN, has reiterated Tehran's position on the war in Ukraine, underlining that his country's impartial position on the war remains unchangeable.

"I am writing to you regarding the letter dated 21 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2022/790) in which, Iran was referenced inappropriately, unwarrantedly, and unjustifiably in a joint statement by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Czech Republic that was annexed to the abovesaid letter in connection with the Security Council briefing on the agenda item "Maintenance of peace and security in Ukraine" on 21 October 2022 (S/PV.9161)," Iravani said in a letter to the president of the UN Security Council.

"As stated clearly on numerous occasions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has maintained an impartial position since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. This principled position has been consistent and remained unchangeable. As a country that had already suffered from an 8-year imposed war and aggression, Iran opposes any conflict or war anywhere in the world, including Ukraine and has consistently called for peace and an immediate end to the conflict in Ukraine," he stated. Page 3

Iran to play Tunisia for maximum coordination

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Carlos Queiroz's side, who are preparing for the 2022 World Cup, hope to reach the maximum coordination with their last preparatory match against Tunisia. They hope to go to the filed against England in their first match in the World Cup with good preparation.

Team Melli defeated Nicaragua 1-0 in a friendly match in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Thursday.

Queiroz fielded a stand-in squad against Nicaragua with the likes of Mehdi Taremi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Sardar Azmoun and Saman Ghoddos absent. So, the Portuguese coach tried to test other players in his squad to have a better perception of the ones who deserve to be in the World Cup finals.

Shocking Injury

The bitter and unfortunate incident of the game against Nicaragua was the severe injury of Omid Ebrahimi which caused the midfielder to miss the World Cup.

The hard-working defensive midfielder suffered a groin injury only two minutes after entering the field in the match against Nicaragua and left the field on a stretcher.

The incident reminded Ebrahimi of a similar scene in the 2018 World Cup where he also left the game against Morocco due to an injury.

Mehdi Torabi found the back of the net in the 15th minute in the match against Nicaragua which was held behind closed doors. Omid Noorafkan slipped a pass to Torabi from the left. Page 3

Germans protest inflation as many turn to firewood this winter

Germany has again been the scene of new protests against rising energy prices amid growing demands for more assistance from the government toward those with lower incomes as the frosty winter season coupled with a hike in fuel prices begins to bite.

Organizers say tens of thousands of people have marched through the capital Berlin against the cost-of-living crisis and skyrocketing energy bills. The protesters are also demanding the government control food prices and increase taxes for the rich.

Marching behind banners, one of which was decorated with the demand "Redistribute!", the demonstrators have heeded the call of left-wing organizations to protest against the soaring prices.

Other banners said the current economic order "puts profits over people's needs" as price rises hit German household budgets as well as businesses. Page 5

IRISL sets up offices in India to facilitate activities

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has opened representative offices in various regions of India in order to facilitate shipping activities along the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Mehr News Agency reported.

As reported, IRISL will ship India's export products that have been transported from the east via railway to the western ports of the country, to deliver them to Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) markets.

Considering that the Indian government and businessmen are very interested in developing business activities with Russia, CIS and Iran through the INSTC, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines has launched regular container shipping lines from the western ports of India to the southern ports of Iran.

In the meantime, executive and marketing measures have been also taken to strengthen and develop cooperation with the Indian sides to transport the country's export and import goods to Russia and the CIS markets. Page 4

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Glimpses of grandeur: mobile shots of Persepolis

Photo collection, taken with a mobile phone, depicts the ruins of Persepolis in southern Iran, November 19, 2022. In its heyday, the ceremonial Achaemenid capital was the beating heart of a mighty empire that spread from the Indus River to Ethiopia.

You may Scan QR code to reach the collection.

Varzaneh awarded Ramsar wetland city accreditation

TEHRAN – The City of Varzaneh, in the east of Isfahan province, was accredited as a Ramsar Wetland City.

The announcement was made at the 14th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 5 to 13.

Urbanization is one of the key defining mega-trends of our time. It is transforming where and how people will live in the future. Four billion people, about half of the world's population live in urban areas today. By 2050 that number is expected to increase as more people move into cities.

Over the last few years, the officials, various groups of people, and environmentalists decided to propose global registration of Varzaneh city to preserve and protect the international wetland of Gavkhuni. Page 7

Tepe Rivi: archaeologists digging site previously yielded relics from Bronze age to Islamic era

TEHRAN—Archaeologists have commenced work on Tepe Rivi, a rich excavation site in northeast Iran, which previously yielded relics and ruins dating from the Bronze Age to the early Islamic period.

Up to the moment, nine seasons of archaeology have been carried out on the site, of which seven were conducted by joint Iranian and German experts, North Khorasan province's tourism chief said on Saturday.

"Based on archeological evidence, Ravi is one of the most important historical sites in the northeast of the country, where determined archaeological research can help improve our understanding of the historical identity of the region and develop tourism in North Khorasan," Mohammadreza Qahremanian said.

Previous archaeological excavations have delivered significant results, including a large area inhabited for about 2300 years from about 1700 BC to the end of the Sassanid era, the official explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official underlined the vast size and importance of the site under the Achaemenid rule. "Rivi is of high importance as its size Page 6

Iran responds to German, French leaders' pejorative, provocative remarks

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Sunday showed reactions to the latest spurious allegations and stances by the German and French leaders, calling them non-diplomatic, meddlesome, and provocative.

Kanaani added that the current approach taken by the German chancellor toward the Islamic Republic is "aggressive" and "intrusive".

"Sadly, some so-called human rights defenders have forgotten about their nefarious history of backing the Saddam regime against the patriotic Iranian people," Kanaani highlighted.

Kanaani was openly referring to the supply of raw materials to Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the 1980s to build chemical weapons in which the Iraqi dictator used against Iranians civilians and soldiers and the Iraqi Kurds.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman added, "They have politicized the issue of human rights by enforcing unfair sanctions following the U.S.'s May 2018 unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JAPOA) and by remaining silent regarding the Daesh terrorist moves, the most recent of which occurred in a holy site in southcentral Iran." Page 2

Iran Book Week opens sooner than planned due to Qatar World Cup

TEHRAN – The Iran Book Week opened its 30th edition on Saturday, three days sooner than planned to avoid overlap with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Youths usually confine their full attention to issues concerning football during the World Cup, therefore the change has been made to keep their total concentration on the book week programs, the organizers have said.

The Iran Book Week opens every year on the 24th of Aban on the Iranian calendar, which is celebrated as Book, Reading and Librarianship Day by the Iran Book and Literature House.

This year's book week has selected the motto "We Are Those People Who Read".

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon - has prepared a wide variety of programs.

As the most attractive part of its programs, Kanoon is streaming six stage and animation adaptations of books previously published by the institute on its platform, cinema.kpf.ir/film.

One of the animated movies is "The Farmer and the Cock" directed by Parvin Tajvid based on a book of the same title by Manuchehr Karimzadeh.

"Night Song" directed by Moein Samadi based on Shokufeh Taqi's book "The Most Beautiful Song" and "Once There Was the Moon and a Fox", director Babak Nazari's movie inspired by writer Anahita Teimurian's book of the same title, will also stream. Page 8

Raisi and Putin call for expanding infrastructure cooperation

TEHRAN – In a phone conversation with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin late on Saturday, President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran called for expansion of infrastructure ties, including strengthening and developing transportation lines in the Eurasian region in line with efforts to boost commercial and economic relations in the region.

Raisi welcomed Russia's willingness to strengthen economic cooperation with Iran and expanding infrastructure ties, including developing transportation lines in the Eurasian region. He said this will help trade and economic cooperation in the region.

In the phone conversation that was initiated by Putin, the Iranian president said increase in diplomatic and economic exchanges between the two countries are important in improving relations.

For his part, Putin pointed the special geographical location of Iran and said the North-South corridor is effective in reducing the time and costs of transportation.

This transit route will become an attractive route for the world in terms of economy and trade.

Putin also pointed to the visit of a 100-person Russian business delegation to Tehran as the third largest Russian economic delegation to Iran and noted that Iran and Russia have many capacities to consolidate ties.

The Russian leader also pointed to the October 26 terrorist incident in Shiraz and once again expressed his sympathy with the Iranian government and people and condemned terrorism in any form.

The Kremlin also issued a statement announcing that Putin had a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart.

Putin and the Iranian President emphasized strengthening cooperation in political and economic spheres, including transportation.

In the conversation with his Iranian counterpart, the Russian president once again expressed his sympathy with Raisi concerning the terrorist attack in the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, the statement said.

Putin and Raisi agreed to strengthen contacts between Iranian and Russian institutions, the statement said, according to Al Jazeera.

Leader envoy meets Sunni clerics in Zahedan

TEHRAN – Mohammad Javad Hajj Ali Akbari, the head of the Policymaking Council of Prayer Leaders and representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, travelled on Sunday to Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchistan province.

He was dispatched to the province in his capacity as envoy from the office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

In Zahedan, he met the prominent Sunni clerics, including Mowlawi Abdulhamid Islamail Zehi, the prayer leader of Zahedan's Makki Mosque.

Hajj Ali Akbari was set to meet the provincial governor and the families of the martyrs as well.

Sistan-Baluchistan province has been restive over the last weeks amid a nationwide unrest that engulfed Iran in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini.

Dozens of people and security forces have

Mowlawi Abdulhamid *Hajj Ali Akbari*

lost their lives in the unrest in the province.

Hajj Ali Akbari was set to discuss with provincial figures the initiatives of Ayatollah Khamenei for resolving problems facing the southeastern border province.

According to the Leader's office in the province, Hajj Ali Akbari and Mowlawi Abdulhamid exchanged views about the recent events. A number of Sunni scholars were present in the meeting.

Leader to receive Isfahanis on Wednesday

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei is to receive people of different strata from province of Isfahan, a provincial official announced on Sunday.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday (November 16) on Isfahan Day, IRNA reported.

November 16 has been named Isfahan Day to glorify the sacrifices of Isfahani people during Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s. The proposal was made by the Cultural Revolution Council and accepted by the government.

On Such a day in 1982, a funeral procession was held for 370 soldiers who had been martyred in the imposed war on Iran.

Iran's resistance against the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s is known as Sacred Defense.

Foes' drones are in crosshairs of Bavar-373: Army chief

TEHRAN– The commander-in-chief of the Iranian army underscored on Sunday that the promotion of indigenously developed Bavar-373 air defense system is a considerable breakthrough, consisting of a collection of state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies.

In a ceremony held to honor elites cooperating in the upgrade of Bavar-373 system, Major General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi stressed that the hegemony of Western media will never let Iranian nation stay thrilled over such technological developments.

Certain top military figures attended in the event including Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, Commander of Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard, and other top military brass at Khatam Al-Anbia Air Defense Academy.

The Army chief also extended condolences over the martyrdom of a set of Iranians in the terrorist attack in Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz on October 26 as well as those who lost lives in recent riots in certain cities of Iran.

"Those who committed such crimes to lower the country's security and safety, should be held to account. However, the main culprits are the U.S. officials in both incidents-insurgency and act of terror. The U.S., Zionist regime, and the tattered ideology of Saudi Arabia play vital roles in engineering and implementing both the instability and carnage," General Mousavi remarked.

> The Bavar-373 air defense system can target offensive drones at a range of 304 kilometers.

He also pointed out that the Bavar-373 can target offensive drones at a range of 304 kilometers.

The top commander praised the Army's Air Defense Force, as well as all enterprises, knowledge-based companies, and institutions participating in developing the system.

With the emergence of the Islamic Revolution, he said, the Western domination led by the United States is doomed to die. In addition, he said, when the grand idol crumbles, smaller ones will fall by themselves.

Hezbollah: U.S. prevented Lebanon to receive 600,000 tons of fuel from Iran

TEHRAN – A high-ranking official of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has said the United States prevented crisis-hit Lebanon from receiving Iranian fuel shipment to ease power outages amid the deepening economic crisis in the Arab country, Press TV reported.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a post published on his Twitter page following a recent drone strike against an Iranian fuel convoy heading to Lebanon through Syria.

"The U.S. prevented Lebanon from receiving 600 thousand tons of Iranian fuel, estimated to be worth $350 million, which could provide 5 to 6 hours of daily power supply for several months," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani stated, via Twitter, that foreign sides thwarted Iran's attempt to deliver fuel to Lebanon to activate the existing plants or construct new ones and prevented the provision of electricity to the Lebanese people.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah also reiterated during his Friday address that the U.S. administration has been preventing Lebanon from receiving the Iranian fuel, describing it as a curse that has plagued Lebanon.

Earlier this week, Vice President of the Executive Council of Hezbollah Sheikh Ali Damoush said the U.S. wants to deepen and exacerbate crises in Lebanon, and push the country to the brink of a social explosion, noting that a straightforward example of such an approach is the latest comments by Barbara Leaf, assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, at an event hosted by the Wilson Center in Washington DC on Friday.

Leaf said Lebanon will likely have to bear more pain before the impoverished Mediterranean country forms a new government.

"Things will have to get worse before the public pressure mounts in such a way," that parliament selects a new president, she asserted.

Iraqi security and border officials said an airstrike by a drone targeted a convoy of 22 tankers carrying Iranian fuel that had entered Qa'im border crossing on the Syrian side of the border with Iraq late on Tuesday. Some reports said Israel carried out the strike, saying at least two fuel trucks were destroyed as a result.

A huge blaze was seen on the Syrian side of the border, a security official said.

The convoy crossed the borders into Syria after obtaining "all necessary legal approvals from Iraq" and according to the transportation documents the Iranian fuel was heading to Lebanon through Syria, two border police officials noted.

Back in September, Lebanon's then Minister of Energy and Water Walid Fayad said an Iranian fuel delivery was vital to Beirut's plans to reform its electricity supply system.

He added that fuel deliveries from Iran would enable the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water to boost its finances by increasing electricity supply to customers in the country.

Fayad admitted, however, that Nasrallah and the leader of the Lebanese Free Patriotic Movement Gebran Bassil had been influential in the success of Iran's initiative to send fuel to Lebanon.

Iran responds to German, French leaders' pejorative, provocative remarks

from page 1 ▶ While Germany sidesteps its international responsibilities to respect other countries' national sovereignty, the Islamic Republic upholds the principles of human rights, which include respect for the people, battle against oppression, and protection of the downtrodden, Kanaani stated.

While Germany presents itself as a promoter of human rights, it shelters terrorist and anti-Islamic Republic organizations and applies a double standard policy toward crimes committed by the Zionist regime.

Kanaani recommended German officials to restore sanity to the cooperative atmosphere and avoid further deterioration of relations.

Building trust and honoring mutual interests is the only way to ensure long-term cooperation, the spokesman remarked.

In remarks on Saturday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said

Macron

Iran should expect more sanctions from the EU, euro news reported.

He added that his country stands "shoulder to shoulder with the Iranian people".

Scholz's remarks came ahead of an EU meeting on Monday, where foreign ministers will mull slapping Iran with new sanctions.

A European diplomat, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said that about 30 people were set to be sanctioned by the bloc.

Scholz

They are likely to be the country's insiders or individuals linked to the government.

'It's unusual for Macron to undermine his position and meet a despised puppet'

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson also slammed a meeting between French President Emmanuel Macron and a highly controversial person and others accompanying her on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum.

Such an anti-Iran move will undoubtedly be remembered by the great Iranian people, according to Kanaani.

He went on to underscore that "it is unusual for a president of a country that claims to be an advocate of freedom to undermine his position and meet with a despised puppet who has openly made hate remarks and attempted to intensify terror attacks inside Iran and against its diplomatic centers outside the country."

Furthermore, the official condemned Macron's statements who referred to the riots in Iran as a "revolution".

Kanaani remarked that "Macron's meeting is a blatant breach of France's international obligations in the fight against terrorism and aggression. Such approaches are predicted to spread these horrible occurrences."

SCO seeks to uphold international law, says Iranian ambassador to China

TEHRAN – The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is seeking global peace and works to uphold international law, Iran's ambassador to China has said.

In an interview with the Chinese People's Daily Online published on Saturday, Mohammad Keshavarzzadeh stated that the SCO seeks to assist in providing better answers to the problems faced by member states as well as the region.

Keshavarzadeh responded to a question about the significance of Iran joining the bloc by pointing out that the organization includes members from Central and Eastern Asia in addition to other regions, and this can give Iran a platform to make overtures with all of these countries.

He said that Iran will eventually gain from an organization like the SCO, which is the only one in the world without a Western power as a member.

On a question that some Western nations equate the SCO with NATO, he said such a comparison is wrong because the SCO is an inclusive bloc and not a military alliance.

In order to create a win-win scenario and provide better answers to the problems that Asian countries confront, a cooperative organization was established, the ambassador opined.

The diplomat further stated that the SCO seeks global peace and strives to better the international order, but NATO seeks dominance and has caused crises in Europe, such as the one currently underway between Russia and Ukraine. That is, he explained, since the SCO does not seek to be dominant, it is successful.

"NATO's policies and performance are undermining global peace," the envoy emphasized.

In terms of combating terrorism, Keshavarzzadeh stated that Iran is a victim of terrorism and that collaboration with the Shanghai organization will benefit the country in countering terrorism.

In response to criticism of China's human rights record by the West, the Iranian envoy also said Western nations, including the U.S., are using the human rights issue as a tool to meddle in China's internal affairs and exert pressure on the country to obstruct its path of rapid development.

Regarding ties between Tehran and Beijing, the ambassador noted that China is Iran's largest trading partner.

The two nations enjoy strong links and their leaders are frequently in contact, he remarked.

Mr. Aliyev this is Simorgh arena!

TEHRAN – The remarks by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev about a major portion of the Iranian population have caused a political uproar that is likely to lead to serious diplomatic repercussions for Tehran-Baku relations.

Azerbaijani officials and media have long sought to resort to insinuations and innuendoes when referring to Iran's Azerbaijani citizens due to the sensitivity of the matter. There has always been an undertone of meddling in this regard. But Baku used to rein in its ethnically-based revanchism and put the frequently-referred-to issue of Azerbaijanis living abroad on the shelf.

On the other hand, Iran has always tried to contain the situation and make the Republic of Azerbaijan understand that toying with ethnic minorities is not an option.

This delicate equilibrium came to an end on Friday when President Aliyev alienated a large swath of the Iranian population under the pretext of ethnic solidarity, a meddling stance that Iran quickly responded to.

Speaking at the 9th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States, the Azerbaijani president egregiously interfered in Iran's internal affairs, describing millions of the Iranian population as "compatriots."

Of note, Iran is one of the most diverse countries in the West Asia region and includes many ethnic and religious minorities, including Azeris. But these minorities all comprises Iran's identity and have defended Iran in various times of crisis, including during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s (locally known as the Sacred Defense). In this war, Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq, also made similar claims regarding Iran's Arab minority. But when the war broke out, Iran's Arabs refused to back Saddam and defended their homeland.

"The Turkic world does not consist of independent Turkic states only, its geographical boundaries are broader. I believe that the time has come to permanently keep in mind, within the framework of the organization, issues such as preventing the assimilation and protecting the rights, security and national identity of our compatriots living beyond the countries that are members of the Organization of Turkic States," Aliyev said at the Samarkand summit. "The young generation of the Turkic world should have the opportunity to study in their mother tongue in the countries of their residence. Unfortunately, majority of the 40 million Azerbaijanis living outside Azerbaijan are deprived of these opportunities. Education of our compatriots living outside Turkic states in their mother tongue should always be on the agenda of the organization. Necessary steps should be taken in this direction."

He added, "The state of Azerbaijan pays special attention to the protection of the rights, freedoms and security of Azerbaijanis living abroad. We will continue our efforts so that our compatriots, who were separated from the state of Azerbaijan due to bitter fate, preserve our language, traditions, and culture, remain loyal to the ideas of Azerbaijanism, and never cut ties with their historical homeland."

This is the first time such a statement being made by the highest-level official of the Republic of Azerbaijan. And it seems that the Azerbaijani leadership has made a strategic decision to further undermine relations with Iran. But the arena of Simorgh is not Aliyev's place of display, as a famous Persian poem puts it.

In Persian politics, no other verse has so far been frequently used in political and diplomatic debates like the Simorgh couplet from a Hafiz ode. "O fly, the arena of the mighty Simorgh is not thy place of display. Thou smear thy reputation and cause trouble for us" says Hafiz of those who fail to appreciate their capacity, and undertake tasks beyond their power.

On Sunday, a number of Iranian lawmakers sought to make Aliyev appreciate that entering the arena of Simorgh is not in his power.

Lawmaker Seyed Alborz Hosseini reminded the Azerbaijani president of the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan itself was excised from Iran in the Golestan Treaty. So, the lawmaker advised Aliyev to read history.

Ali Nikzad, another lawmaker, quipped that the grandson cannot deny his grandfather and that the remarks of the Azerbaijani president are unfounded.

Lawmaker Mohammad Reza Mirtajuddini went so far as to call for the annexation of Nakhichevan, the Azerbaijani autonomous region bordering Iran, Armenia, and Turkey.

Lawmaker Mahmoud Ahmadi Bighash strongly inveighed against Aliyev, rejecting Azerbaijan's "meddlesome remarks" and "continued insolence."

The strong reactions come amid a diplomatic fray between Tehran and Baku. The Iranian foreign ministry has summoned the Azerbaijani ambassador to Tehran. And the Azerbaijani foreign ministry did the same thing.

Iranian lawmakers warn Azerbaijan president over 'compatriots' comment

TEHRAN – A group of Iranian lawmakers have fiercely responded to remarks by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev about the language rights of fellow Azerbaijanis living outside of Azerbaijan, which has been understood in Iran as a clear hint at Iran's sizable Azerbaijani population.

Lawmaker Seyed Alborz Hosseini reminded the Azerbaijani president of the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan itself was excised from Iran in the Golestan Treaty.

"The Azerbaijani President has made remarks about Turkish-inhabited territories. I suggest that he read the Golestan Treaty to understand which territory was separated from which territory. These remarks about the territorial integrity of neighboring states are unbecoming of the Azerbaijani president," Hosseini said.

The remarks came in response in the controversial statement by Aliyev during the 9th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States, a pan-Turkic institution advocating Turkish unity and integration.

"The Turkic world does not consist of independent Turkic states only, its geographical boundaries are broader. I believe that the time has come to permanently keep in mind, within the framework of the organization, issues such as preventing the assimilation and protecting the rights, security and national identity of our compatriots living beyond the countries that are members of the Organization of Turkic States," Aliyev said. "The young generation of the Turkic world should have the opportunity to study in their mother tongue in the countries of their residence. Unfortunately, majority of the 40 million Azerbaijanis living

outside Azerbaijan are deprived of these opportunities. Education of our compatriots living outside Turkic states in their mother tongue should always be on the agenda of the organization. Necessary steps should be taken in this direction."

He added, "The state of Azerbaijan pays special attention to the protection of the rights, freedoms and security of Azerbaijanis living abroad. We will continue our efforts so that our compatriots, who were separated from the state of Azerbaijan due to bitter fate, preserve our language, traditions, and culture, remain loyal to the ideas of Azerbaijanism, and never cut ties with their historical homeland."

Hosseini said Aliyev's remarks are unrealistic and Azerbaijan would have been a part of Iran were it not for the Golestan Treaty.

He also called on the Iranian foreign ministry and the Majlis to react to these remarks.

Ali Nikzad, another lawmaker, quipped that the grandson cannot deny his grandfather and that the remarks of the Azerbaijani president are unfounded.

Lawmaker Mohammad Reza Mirtajuddini went so far as to call for the annexation of Nakhichevan, the Azerbaijani autonomous region bordering Iran, Armenia, and Turkey.

Mirtajuddini said Aliyev made remarks that fall beyond his capacity and accused him of not knowing history.

Addressing Aliyev, the lawmaker said, "Note that Azerbaijan was separated from Iran, not vice versa."

Lawmaker Mahmoud Ahmadi Bighash strongly inveighed against Aliyev, rejecting Azerbaijan's "meddlesome remarks" and "continued insolence."

Earlier, the Iranian foreign ministry summoned the ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran.

"The ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan was summoned to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the wake of anti-Iran propaganda and a smear campaign against the Islamic Republic by Azerbaijan's officials and media," the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement.

The statement added, "During the session, the Iranian foreign minister's assistant and director general of the Ministry's Eurasia Department conveyed Iran's strong protest at and dissatisfaction with the unfriendly remarks of Azerbaijan's top officials and Azeri media's smear campaign to Baku's envoy."

"We expect an end to this trend as soon as possible and the adoption of necessary measures to prevent a repetition," the Iranian official said.

Azerbaijan's ambassador expressed regret over the current situation and said he would relay the Islamic Republic's protest to Baku swiftly.

Iran UN envoy reiterates Tehran's impartial position on Ukraine

Frome Page 1 ▸ "The Islamic Republic of Iran's position on the Ukraine situation is clear, consistent, and unwavering, which has been pronounced since the start of the conflict. From the beginning, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that all UN Members must fully respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter as well as applicable international law, including sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity. As a country that has experienced 8-year imposed war and aggression, Iran opposes any conflict or war anywhere in the world, including in Ukraine," the mission said.

It added, "Iran has consistently advocated for peace and an immediate end to the conflict in Ukraine and expressed clearly that this crisis has no military solution, and building upon this belief, Iran has urged the parties in the conflict to exercise restraint, avoid escalating tensions, and engage in a meaningful process for settling their disputes through peaceful means while also addressing the root causes of the situation. At the same time, Iran has also rejected any unilateral sanctions, and/or pressure, as well as any provocative measures against one side that would only aggravate the situation and make reaching a peaceful resolution more difficult. Similarly, the West's extensive military support and supply of sophisticated weapons could not be intended to bring the war to a close, but rather to escalate the conflict and increase damage and destruction."

The mission noted, "Iran supports the ongoing efforts to find a peaceful solution to this conflict, and in this regard, our Foreign Minister contacted his counterparts from both sides on several occasions. Iran categorically rejects unfounded and unsubstantiated claims that Iran has transferred unmanned aerial vehicles for use in the conflict in Ukraine. Such claims are nothing but a propaganda apparatus launched by certain states to further their political agenda."

SPORTS

Iran to play Tunisia for maximum coordination

Frome Page 1 ▸ Iran edged Uruguay 1-0 and drew 1-1 with Senegal in late September in a training camp in Austria. Taremi and Azmoun received their passes from the left flank. It seems that the Portuguese head coach has a special plan for attacking from the left wing. Queiroz's plans have been quite successful so far.

The Persian Leopards will also play Tunisia in a friendly match in Doha, Qatar. Team Melli have been drawn in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with England, the U.S. and Wales. Iran will start the campaign with a match against England on Nov. 21.

Iran rout Australia at 2022 IBSA Blind Football Asia/Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran football 5-a-side team defeated Australia 8-0 at the 2022 International Blind Football Federation (IBSA) Blind Football Asia/Oceania Championships on Sunday.

Behzad Zadaliasghar netted a hat trick and Sadegh Rahimi scored a brace for Team Iran.

Hossein Rajabpour, Morteza Karimi and Ahmad Shahhosseini scored a goal each.

Iran will play Uzbekistan on Monday.

Group A of consists of India, Thailand, China, Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

Iran, Australia, Uzbekistan, Japan and South Korea are in Group B.

The competition takes place in Kochi, India from Nov. 11 to 18.

The event serves as qualifier for the World Championships Birmingham 2023 and Paris Paralympics 2024.

The champions will secure their berth for the Paralympics and the top three teams will qualify for the World Championships.

Firouz Karimi parts company with Sanat Naft: IPL

TEHRAN – Firouz Karimi stepped down as head coach of Iranian football club Sanat Naft.

The 64-year-old coach replaced Reza Parkas, who was sacked from his post following poor results in the Iran Professional League (IPL), in late September.

Media reports suggest that ex-Iran coach Dragan Skocic, former Esteghlal trainer Winfried Schafer and Alireza Mansourian are among the candidates to take charge of the team.

Sanat Naft sit 16th with six points out of 11 matches.

Australia basketball withdraw from World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN - Australia Saturday pulled out of a men's basketball World Cup qualifier in Iran next week.

The Boomers were due to play in Tehran on Tuesday but opted to stay away after securing their spot at next year's World Cup with a dominant 97-50 thrashing of Kazakhstan.

Australian shooting guard Dejan Vasiljevic said the players backed the decision.

Australia have played in all but one of the past 13 World Cups.

The tournament next year is co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia.

Iran defeat Uzbekistan at 2022 CAFA U14 Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Uzbekistan 3-1 at the 2022 CAFA U14 Championship on Saturday.

Ali Dastmarzeh (two goals) and Ashkan Torabi scored for Iran.

Iran had lost to Afghanistan 1-0 in its opening match on Friday.

Iran will play Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in its following matches.

the 2022 CAFA U14 Championship is the first edition of the CAFA U14 Championship, the international youth football championship organized by CAFA for the men's under-14 national teams of Central Asia. The tournament is being held in Hisor, Tajikistan from November 9 to 19.

Iran edged by China at 2022 Asian Water Polo Championship semis

TEHRAN – Iran lost to China 11-10 at the 2022 Asian Water Polo Championship semifinals on Sunday.

Team Melli defeated India 19-4, South Korea 17-8, Kazakhstan 11-10, Thailand 15-3 and Hong Kong 19-2 in the competition but failed to register their sixth consecutive win.

Team Iran, headed by Aleksandar Ciric, will play losesrs of Japan and Kazakhstan match in the competition's brone medal match on Monday.

The competition is being held in Samut Prakan, Thailand from Nov. 7 to 13.

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

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

Noorafkan among young stars could shine at World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran national football team player Omid Noorafkan is among the young stars could shine at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The FIFA World Cup has long been a platform not just for established stars to enhance their reputations, but also for young guns to burst onto the scene and make a name of themselves.

Through the years, some of Asia's brightest prospects have used the tournament as to showcase their ability, eventually gaining prominence and even earning dream moves to Europe on the back of their performances at a World Cup.

In recent years, Iran has had no shortage of players that have proven to be good enough to make the grade in Europe -- and Omid Noorafkan could be the next to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Taremi, Sardar Azmoun and Alireza Jahanbakhsh to name but a few.

Like Akram, Noorafkan is far from a raw talent at the age of 25, and he did previously briefly feature in the Belgian top flight with Charleroi.

Now back in Iran with Sepahan, Noorafkan has established himself as one of the Persian Gulf Pro League's most-consistent performers, while also proving to be a handy asset with his versatility.

Equally adept at left-back and in a defensive midfield role, Noorafkan may not be an automatic starter in what will be a formidable starting XI that Team Melli coach Carlos Queiroz will be fielding, but he is a player capable of making an impact even as an option off the bench.

Akram Afif (Qatar), Firas Al-Buraikan (Saudi Arabia), Takefusa Kubo (Japan) and Lee Kang-in (South Korea) are the other Asian stars to watch in Qatar.

IRISL sets up offices in India to facilitate activities

from page 1 ▶ IRISL has taken effective steps in recent months to strengthen its shipping activity along the North-South corridor by managing the Russian port of Solyanka on the shores of the Caspian Sea as well as making huge investments in developing this port.

In early April, IRISL formed an operational working group for the development of transportation along INSTC and the company allocated 300 vessels to the transportation of goods through this corridor.

Currently, most of the commodities that are transported through Iran along the INSTC are shipments from Russia for India.

To be transited through the north-south corridor, cargos enter northern Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea shores and is then

transferred by road to the southern ports of the country on the Persian Gulf. From there they are loaded onto a ship and sent to their destinations in East Asia.

Over 14m car tires produced in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iranian tire manufacturers produced 14,177,370 car tires in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), rising three percent from the output in the same period of time in the previous year.

This number of produced tires weighed over 149,712 tons, with no change from the amount in the first seven months of the past year.

According to the statistics, in the mentioned period, 93,65 tons of passenger car tires were produced, showing a nine-percent rise year on year.

Meanwhile, 14,138 tons of van tires were produced, indicating a 10-percent fall, and 28,867 tons of truck and bus tires were produced, showing a 11-percent drop.

Production of the tires of agricultural vehicles experienced a decline of 14 percent to stand at 10,706 tons, and that of the road building and industrial vehicles fell 18 percent to 2,350 tons in the period under review.

In the first seven months of the present year, 10,251 tons of bicycle and motorcycle tires were also produced.

Iranian tire manufacturers produced 47,624,426 vehicle tires in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was one percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

This number of produced tires weighed over 288,149 tons, with a four-percent drop year on year.

As reported, 24,179,708 car tires weighting 259,096 tons were produced in the past year, with four percent drop in number, and five percent fall in weight as compared to its preceding year.

In the previous year, 152,251 tons of passenger car tires were produced, showing a five-percent fall year on year.

Passenger cars accounted for 58.7 percent of the total tires produced in 1400.

Van tires output rose six percent to stand at 27,360 tons, while truck and bus tires output fell six percent to stand at 54,928 tons.

Production of the tires of light agricultural vehicles experienced a decline of 24 percent to stand at 3,256 tons, while that of the heavy ones also declined eight percent to stand at 16,620 tons.

Production of the tires of road building and industrial vehicles also fell 28 percent to 4,681 tons in the period under review.

In the past year, 18,746 tons of bicycle and motorcycle tires were produced, showing 13 percent growth.

Production of tubes rose one percent to stand at 10,307 tons.

The tire industry has a 60-year history in Iran. Currently, 11 tire manufacturing companies are active across the country that produce tires for passenger cars, trucks, buses, vans, road construction, and agriculture machinery, as well as bicycles and motorcycles in addition to other types of tubes.

Some 15,000 people are directly employed in this industry and more than 250,000 people are indirectly involved in the value chain of this industry.

The Iranian tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has been following a thriving and successful path over the past few years.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, Iranian tire manufacturers have entered new areas including production of the wide-base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of heavy vehicles' tires, have been produced for the first time in West Asia by Iranian producers.

Petchem consortium to develop Iran gas fields for 1st time

TEHRAN – A consortium of Iranian petrochemical companies has started operations to develop gas fields in the country for the first time in the history of the country's oil industry, Secretary General of the Petrochemical Industry Employers Association Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari said.

"With the formation of the first consortium of petrochemical companies to operate in the upstream sector, work has begun on the three gas fields of Khartang, Gardhan, and Pazen," Mahdavi told Tasnim.

Referring to the importance of the petrochemical industry in the capital market and the national economy, the official stated: "From the beginning of the current calendar year (March 21) until November 8, about $9.4 billion have been injected into NIMA (domestic Forex Management Integrated System) by petrochemical companies."

According to Mahdavi Petrochemical industry is a leading industry that needs to be supported, and this issue is mostly the responsibility of the Oil Ministry and requires the attention of this ministry to the issues concerning this industry.

Unfreezing assets blocked in S. Korea underway: CBI governor

TEHRAN – Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi said on Saturday that the process of unfreezing the Iranian assets blocked in two South Korean banks is underway.

Saleh-Abadi declined to provide any more details on the release of the Iranian assets, IRNA reported.

He also touched upon the government's plans to control the hard currency market and said that as measures were taken earlier to contain the gold coin market, the CBI has plans to introduce a package within the next few days to bring the hard currency market under control.

According to CBI, over seven billion dollars of Iranian oil revenues have been frozen in two South Korean banks since September 2019, when Washington's sanctions waiver for South Korea's imports of Iranian oil expired.

Over the past two years, Senior South Korean and Iranian officials have been negotiating to explore methods to restore bilateral relations strained by the problem of Iranian funds frozen in the country.

Iran has repeatedly called on Seoul to abandon its "illegal" policies and release the Iranian assets that it has frozen due to the sanctions.

South Korean Vice Foreign Affairs Minister Choi Jong Kun visited Iran in January 2021 and met with senior Iranian officials including the CBI former governor for discussing ways for resolving the issue.

After the Korean official's visit to Iran, the two sides finally agreed that South Korea should provide the necessary monetary channels for Iran to be able to use its assets in this country for purchasing essential goods through third countries.

Later in February that year, head of Iran-South Korea Joint Chamber of Commerce Hossein Tanhaei said that $1 billion of Iran's frozen funds in South Korea were going to be transferred to an Iran-Switzerland financial channel to be paid for foodstuff, medicine, and medical equipment.

POGC plans to drill 35 new wells in South Pars

TEHRAN – Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing Iran's giant South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf, is planning to drill 35 new wells to enhance and maintain gas production in the massive joint field, an official with the company announced.

According to Shobeir Nabavi, the deputy head of POGC's Reservoir Operations Engineering Unit, POGC has obtained the necessary permits from the Oil Ministry to spud 35 new wells in the field within the next two to three years, SHANA reported.

Nabavi put the number of drilled and completed wells in this field at 341, of which 308 wells are currently operational.

The official said POGC is currently focusing on maintaining production in the South Pars gas field while developing other gas fields such as Kish, North Pars, Bilal, Golshan and Ferdowsi, Farzad A and B, and also the oil layers of South Pars.

He further noted that the main mission of his company is the development of the South Pars joint gas field, adding: "The amount of gas in this field on the Iranian side is estimated at 410 trillion cubic feet, and in the 20 years

since the beginning of gas production from this field until today, 75.5 trillion cubic feet of gas have been produced in the field."

According to Nabavi, the initial pressure of the South Pars gas reservoir in the Kangan and Dalan layers, which are located at a depth of 3,000 meters underground in the Persian Gulf, has decreased from about 5,200 PSI to 3,500 PSI during the 20 years of exploitation of this field."

The POGC official stated that the daily gas production capacity from the massive offshore field is about 700 million cubic meters, and said, "With the commissioning of South Pars Phase 11, the daily gas production capacity of this field will increase to 730 million cubic meters per day."

Nabavi called the installation of pressure-boosting compressors the most important method of maintaining gas production in the South Pars field, and said, "NIOC plans to prioritize this issue in the coming years by installing pressure-boosting compressors and exploiting other gas sources to prevent production drop in the country."

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Commodities worth nearly $685m 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 $685 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 2.432 million tons of commodities valued at almost $443 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,149,583 tons of cement, 106,000 tons of iron ore, 623,450 tons of steel, 74,000 tons of sponge iron, 19,500 tons of zinc, 8,325 tons of aluminum, 9,000 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 65 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 415,483 tons of commodities worth almost $232 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 92,973 tons of polymeric products, 108,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 43,000 tons of

lube cut, 34,764 tons of chemicals, 2,450 tons of sulfur, 4,665 tons of base oil, 400 tons of insulation, 100 tons of argon and 130,180 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 12,146 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.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

TEDPIX falls 6,900 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 6,937 points to 1.419 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 7.668 billion securities worth 38.846 trillion rials (about $133.4 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 7,484 points, and the second market's index dropped 6,526 points.

TEDPIX lost 9,000 points to 1.31 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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

Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry has said the government plans to continue supporting the stock market in the long run and shareholders can count on the government's strategic support.

"The government, along with its short-term and temporary measures to support the stock market, has a long-term strategic plan to continue supporting the market in the future," the ministry said in a statement released on Tuesday (November 8).

The ministry's statement was released in response to an article published by Sharq Newspaper titled "fear and hope in the capital market" in which some worries regarding the future of the market have been addressed.

The government managed to show its serious support for the capital market with its recent support package, the statement read.

"Of course, the 13th government has always supported the capital market and the stability and outlook of the market have always been important for the government. Of course, the capital market and the developments in this market are affected by the instrumental view of the past as well as the real economic developments in the country and the changes of different variables and risks in the political, economic, commercial, and social fields," the ministry stated.

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

From page 1

The country has lost its main source of energy after joining the Western sanctions regime against Russian energy exports, which cut all Russian gas supplies via the Nord Stream pipeline. Critics say the move backfired.

Germany had relied on Russian gas for more than 50 percent of its imports last year; by September this year, the Western sanctions on Moscow saw maintenance issues on the Russian pipeline which resulted in a complete halt to the pumping of any gas to Germany.

That in turn has taken away from Germans a cheap gas bill that many middle-class households had enjoyed for so many years.

The demonstrations against energy prices have, in some parts of the country, become a regular occurrence on a weekly basis. Protests recently took place in Berlin, Duesseldorf, Hannover, Stuttgart, Dresden, and Frankfurt-am-Main, with protesters holding signs bearing slogans on everything from lowering inflation to switching off nuclear power and more energy price subsidies for the poorer class.

The government has already slashed its growth forecast for this year and predicts the economy will shrink further in 2023. It is forecasting a 0.4 percentage point contraction in GDP next year and has sought to mitigate surging energy prices by imposing a partial cap on the price of gas and electricity that will come into force in 2023.

Many of the other mitigating measures in the EU's strongest economy, including subsidies for rail travel, have been forced to end.

Germany is essentially struggling to find alternative wholesale energy suppliers with its "friendly" ally the United States charging "astronomical" prices for American liquefied natural gas.

On Wednesday, some German economic experts proposed raising taxes on those with higher wages to help households struggling with their energy bills, but the suggestion was almost immediately rejected by the country's finance ministry, raising several eyebrows.

Berlin has suggested some gas suppliers are profiting from the fallout of the war in Ukraine which has sent global energy prices soaring and a shortage on the global market, in particular among countries that are very dependent on gas consumption.

Germans protest inflation as many turn to firewood this winter

"Some countries, including friendly ones, sometimes achieve astronomical prices [for their gas]. Of course, that brings with it problems that we have to talk about ... the United States contacted us when oil prices shot up, and the national oil reserves in Europe were tapped as a result. I think such solidarity would also be good for curbing gas prices," the German Economy Minister Robert Habeck says.

The now more expensive gas prices have forced industry cutbacks and closures and municipalities are cutting back, with lower temperatures in swimming pools, and street lights turned off. Households are urged to use less energy, but many will nevertheless face huge jumps in their utility bills, despite attempts by the government to offset the price surge for consumers and companies.

With the hike in fuel prices to heat homes and a lack of other viable options, Germans are faced with two options this winter.

Either switch the central heating off or use firewood as was the case in the stone age and reports suggest that the latter is being taken into serious consideration as wood that can produce fire to heat homes has suddenly shot up in demand.

As with every product on the market, with increased supply comes increased sale prices, which may be the case but there are growing fears and anxiety among many that there will be no gas supplies at all this winter, hence the rush for firewood.

The demand for firewood has hiked in such a way that reflects just how serious the energy crisis could be this winter. The gas shortage itself has raised pressure on firewood suppliers to hike production amid dramatically increased prices for the product.

Germany's Federal Association of Firewood Trade and Production has said the average price of firewood has increased by about 30 to 40 percent at most dealers or about 150 euros per bulk cubic meter. Supplier also says they have raised their prices by about 40 percent for one store — about one cubic meter — of firewood.

According to Germany's Federal Statistical Office, in August 2022 the price of firewood and wood pellets rose 86 percent. The cost of some dealers' large pallets of firewood — about 360 pieces of beech wood — has doubled this year, from about 200 to 400 euros, including delivery, to their customers.

In fact, demand has become so high that some suppliers stopped taking orders in July this year for the rest of 2022, while others are trying to arrange supplies and deliveries for next winter 2023. Some farmers and wood suppliers near Munich have statements on their websites, along the lines of "please don't call us, we're sold out."

According to the German Environment Agency, wood made up 9.9 percent of the total energy consumption for private households in 2020, which includes households that may use wood to supplement other energy sources. Again, it's an option that the energy crisis has made more necessary, to those who source it in the market.

It is a difficult economic time for many countries across Europe as a result of the Covid crisis and the Ukraine war. More and more vulnerable people including single mothers and low-income families are showing up at aid organizations for food assistance, as they struggle to make ends meet.

One small charity group, Die Arche (a local children's anti-poverty aid organization) told some media outlets, that the NGO supports more than 5,000 families from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and around 1,800 families in Berlin - 95 percent of whom are single mothers - in areas such as advice, food and leisure and educational activities.

Its spokesman says that in the two decades he has been working in the city, he has never seen a situation as serious as this one. "We now have parents telling us that they are unable to feed their children meals at lunchtimes and so have started skipping meals so they have something to give them for dinner,"

The spokesman added the charity, which has also seen a drop in private donations in recent months is expecting to see the number of families coming increase in the months ahead.

According to government figures released on Friday, inflation in Germany is at its highest level in more than 70 years and hit 10.4 percent in October.

It's not just Germany facing the challenges of a harsh winter, many nations in Europe have seen inflation reach record levels amid a shortage in energy supplies. Calls are growing louder for governments in Europe, where households are suffering the most, to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine and end the war to save a continent that is on the brink.

UAE meddled in American political system, intelligence finds

A classified U.S. intelligence report states that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a close ally of the United States in the Middle East, has engaged in an extensive effort to influence U.S. political decisions.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the UAE's efforts include legal and illegal measures to try to influence the country's foreign policy in ways that would benefit the UAE. The Post based its reporting on conversations with three people who have read the report.

The report found that the UAE worked throughout multiple administrations to take advantage of vulnerabilities in the U.S. government, including a reliance on campaign contributions, its predisposition to lobbying firms and lax enforcement of disclosure laws that are designed to prevent foreign interference in U.S. affairs.

The National Intelligence Council compiled the report, and top U.S. lawmakers were briefed on it in recent weeks to help their decision-making in the country's policy toward the UAE and Middle East, according to The Post.

U.S. intelligence has previously found

interference in elections and the country's political system from adversaries like Russia and China.

National security staff are aware of some of the activities that the report describes, but these operations have been able to be in effect because the federal government has not reformed foreign influence laws or provided more resources to the Justice Department, The Post reported.

The UAE has spent more than $150 million on lobbying since 2016 and hundreds of millions more on donations to U.S. universities and think tanks, many of which create papers that support the UAE's interests.

One lawmaker that the Post spoke to said the large spending shows how foreign money can influence U.S. democracy.

Another example of the UAE's influence campaign includes hiring three former U.S. intelligence and military officials to help the UAE conduct surveillance on dissidents, politicians, journalists and American companies. All three officials admitted to providing sophisticated hacking technology to the UAE in court last year, The Post reported.

The UAE has been the third-largest buyer of U.S. weapons since 2012 and has fought alongside U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, according to the Post.

The Hill has reached out to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for comment.

The Post reported that Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE ambassador to the U.S., said he is "proud" of the UAE's standing and influence in the U.S. He said it is the product of close cooperation and effective diplomacy and reflects common interests and shared values.

NATO hopes to play leading role in Asia-Pacific region: Lavrov

NATO has stopped claiming its defensive essence and now hopes to play a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters on Sunday following his participation in the East Asia Summit.

"NATO no longer says that it is a purely defensive alliance. It was a defensive alliance when the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact existed. They have moved their line of defense since then, when there is no longer the Warsaw Pact or the Soviet Union. It is unclear from whom they were defending themselves. They have moved this line of defense closer to our borders several times, and now they announced at the Madrid summit this summer that they have global responsibility and that the security of Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific region are indivisible," the top diplomat said.

"That is, in fact, they are now claiming that they will play a leading role here (in the Asia-Pacific region - TASS) and are already shifting the so-called defense line to the South China Sea," Lavrov added.

The Russian foreign minister drew attention to a tendency to militarize the region by matching the efforts of local US allies, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, with an expanding NATO presence. According to him, the Russian side frankly outlined its assessments at the East Asia Summit, and approaches similar to the Russian ones were voiced by Beijing as well.

"However, unfortunately, this will hardly make the US and its allies take into account the interests of most of the countries that are here," Lavrov continued, "But we will continue to convey our position. It is met with understanding within ASEAN, although there is no consensus in ASEAN as well on how to proceed in the security sphere in this region. So if the goal is to sow doubt in ASEAN and try to undermine their monolithic position, then the Americans have achieved their goal."

The Russian top diplomat noted the position of most ASEAN countries, which, according to him, were focused on defending their own interests and not subordinating ASEAN's actions to the interests of extra-regional players. "Our partners highly estimate the position of Russia, the position of China, which are in favor of preserving the central role of ASEAN," Lavrov summarized.

WORLD HEADLINES

6 killed, 53 injured in Istanbul large explosion

According to initial reports, 6 people lost their lives and 53 were injured in the explosion that took place on Istanbul's Istiklal Street, the governor says.

A deadly explosion rocked Istanbul's popular pedestrian Istiklal Avenue at about 4:20 pm (13:20 GMT) on Sunday.

Istanbul Governor Ali Yerlikaya tweeted that the wounded are being treated.

The cause of the explosion is still not clear.

The avenue is a crowded thoroughfare popular with tourists and locals, lined by shops and restaurants. Social media users said shops were shuttered and the avenue closed down.

Democrats keep control of Senate as Cortez Masto wins in Nevada

President Joe Biden's Democratic Party has retained control of the United States Senate after winning a closely contested race in the state of Nevada.

The Associated Press news agency declared Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto the winner in the western state late on Saturday.

Her victory over Republican challenger Adam Laxalt – who had been backed by former President Donald Trump – gives the Democrats the 50 seats they need for an effective majority. Vice President Kamala Harris will be able to break any ties in the 100-member chamber.

It was still unclear which party would control the House of Representatives as counting continued in razor-tight races in California and a smattering of other states. It could take several days or more before the outcome of enough House races is known to determine party control of that 435-seat chamber.

Netanyahu formally tasked with forming new Israeli government

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received an official mandate on Sunday to form a new government and pledged that he would seek national consensus after an election in which Jewish far-rightists surged, drawing concern at home and abroad.

Tasking Netanyahu with building the next coalition, President Isaac Herzog noted that Israel's longest-serving premier had received enough recommendations from like-minded parties to secure 64 of parliament's 120 seats.

"I intend to work to broaden the zone of consensus among us," Netanyahu said in televised remarks at Herzog's residence, adding that he would represent all Israelis "without exception".

He asserted that there was already widespread agreement on Israel's Jewish identity but that individual liberties should also be upheld - an apparent allusion to its 21% Arab minority as well as secular liberals.

Biden to meet Xi, discuss 'most important things' for U.S., China

U.S. President Joe Biden has told Asian leaders that the U.S.'s lines of communication with China would stay open to prevent conflict, as the first of three summits of world leaders this week came to a close.

Addressing the East Asia Summit in Cambodia on Sunday, Biden said the U.S. would compete with China and speak out over its human rights record, but stressed the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait and ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Biden also condemned Russia's "brutal and unjust" invasion of Ukraine and the threats of North Korea's missile tests, the White House said, and called on Myanmar's military rulers to follow a peace plan they agreed to with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Southeast Asia region is also hosting the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Bali, Indonesia, from November 15-16, ahead of which Biden will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since taking office, with relations between the two superpowers at their lowest point in decades.

U.S. officials have in the past expressed frustration that lower-level Chinese officials have been unable or unwilling to speak for Xi, and are hoping the face-to-face meeting will enable progress on areas of mutual concern – and, even more critically, a shared understanding of each other's limitations.

"I know him well, he knows me," Biden said of Xi. "We've just got to figure out where the red lines are and what are the most important things to each of us, going into the next two years."

Biden huddles with Asian allies on North Korea threat, China

President Joe Biden met Sunday with the leaders of Japan and South Korea to coordinate their response to North Korea's threatening nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as well as to seek input on managing China's assertive posture in the Pacific region on the eve of his planned face-to-face with President Xi Jinping.

Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. The three leaders are scheduled to then sit down together on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

The meetings come as North Korea has fired dozens of missiles in recent weeks, including an intercontinental ballistic missile 10 days ago that triggered evacuation alerts in northern Japan, and as the allies warn of a looming risk of the isolated country conducting its seventh nuclear test in the coming weeks.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Saturday that Biden aims to use the meetings to strengthen the three countries' joint response to the dangers posed by North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"What we would really like to see is enhanced trilateral security cooperation where the three countries are all coming together," he said. "That's acutely true with respect to the DPRK because of the common threat and challenge we all face, but it's also true, more broadly, about our capacity to work together to enhance overall peace and stability in the region."

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have skyrocketed in recent months as the North continues its weapons demonstrations and the U.S. and South Korea launched stepped-up joint defense exercises.

Earlier this month, the South Korean military said two B-1B bombers trained with four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-35 jets during the last day of "Vigilant Storm" joint air force drills.

Tepe Rivi: archaeologists digging site previously yielded relics from Bronze age to Islamic era

from page 1 ▶ reached more than 110 hectares during the Achaemenid period and it seems that it was one of the important cities of the Achaemenid period (c. 550 BC to 330 CE) in the northeast of the country."

Initial archaeological research on Rivi started in 2012. Since then teams of Iranian and German archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Achaemenid (550–330 BC), the Parthian (247 BC–224 CE), the Sassanid dynasty (224–651 CE), and the early Islamic period.

So far, professionals in the fields of archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and ecology from the [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich; the [Free] University of Berlin; the University of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University have worked in Rivi archaeological site.

In 2019, a joint mission of Iranian and German archaeologists discovered historical clay stamps in the Rivi region, which are estimated to date from the Achaemenid and Parthian eras. The seals were found alongside clay urns in a large hall, and the seals are imprinted in a variety of geometric patterns [depicting] plants, animals, and human figures.

Evidence suggests that residents of this area sealed the urns that were loaded with particular goods and then tied them with ropes, the archaeologist said. In May 2021, the restoration of some ruined structures, particularly those dating from the Achaemenid era (550–330 BC) started. Moreover, a team of restorers began work last December on earthenware and other relics discovered from the site.

Ardabil boosts tourism infrastructure

TEHRAN –Ardabil tourism directorate has developed tourism infrastructure across the northwestern province during the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 770 billion rials ($2.5 million) has been allocated to the development of tourism in the province so far, Fardin Eini explained on Sunday.

Most of the budget has been spent on developing access routes to several historical sites and tourist attractions in the region, he noted.

Developing tourism infrastructure could encourage the private sector to invest in the tourism sector of the province, the official added.

In 2019, Ardabil along with Sari, the capital of Mazandaran province, were selected as the cultural capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Last April, the tourism authorities of the province announced that they had developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during winter to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

Harireh ancient city to undergo new round of excavation

TEHRAN—An archaeological project is planned to be commenced on Iran's ancient city of Harireh on the Persian Gulf island of Kish within a month.

Organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT), in collaboration with the Kish Free Zone Organization, the ultimate aim of the project is to create an archeological atlas of the Persian Gulf coasts and islands, the director of the institute has said.

The ancient city that dates back to the Ilkhanid era (1256-1335) had economic and commercial exchanges with different countries, including China and several African countries, until the Timurid period (1370-1507), Mosayeb Amiri explained on Sunday.

Covering an area of 120 hectares, the city has undergone several excavation surveys so far, he added.

In several seasons of excavations, historical mansions, a bathhouse, and a Jameh Mosque have been unearthed; some are now open to tourists, he noted.

Last year, Harireh was added to UNESCO's temporary list, which paves the way for its possible registration as World Heritage.

It is hoped that [possible] inclusion of this city in the World Heritage list with its credits will not only promote the architecture and features of the Persian Gulf ports and historical settlements to the world but will also contribute to the development of tourism in the region.

Furthermore, Harireh is registered on the national heritage list.

Located in the central, northern part of the island, the 8th-century Harireh offers a glimpse of ancient architecture, and though not much of it remains intact today, the ruins suggest a once-thriving region. Excavation of this site estimates it having been established around 1000 and abandoned 600 years later.

UNESCO has it that Siraf, Kong, Laft, Harireh, and Mokran as architecture and urban planning of the historical ports of Iran in the Persian Gulf, in terms of urban planning, usage of materials, and adaptation to special settings, have had a decisive role and influence on the evolution and promotion of seashore architecture, technology, and urban planning within the northern margin of the Persian Gulf coast region.

They represent the interaction of human values over time in the cultural context of the world's historical stages. They have witnessed the development of architecture, technology, urban design, and landscape in the northern margin of the Persian Gulf coast region.

Throughout history, great trips have been made to and from these ports by great boats and ships. The connections lead to the junction of the lifestyle of people and made the combined features of the Indian and African arts besides the Islamic art in the formation of architectural and urban and cultural and artistic components in these ports and then the combined and consolidated patterns extend and have been exported to the other parts of the region.

Amongst the Persian Gulf islands, Kish is the more luxurious and developed. Except for its unique nature, such as waters and shallow beaches, the tourist attractions of this charming island are due to its rich historical background as well as its kind and hospitable people.

The pristine and beautiful nature, the meeting of land and sea, the clear sky, the pleasant air, and the pleasurable reverberation of the waves create such a sense of calm that one cannot even distinguish between imagination and reality.

Invitation To The International Renewed (Tender No. 1401/12)

TPCCO

Client: Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company (Public Joint Stock)

Tender Subject:

Engineering and Procurement of One Complete Set of Hydraulic Props and Related Accessories for Roof Supporting of Underground Coal Excavation Panels

Project Address:

Tabas Parvadeh Coal Mines located in 75km southwest Tabas, Iran
Deadline to Inform Readiness to Receive the Documents: Latest by 13:30 p.m. (IRST) Monday November 21, 2022

Notes:

- Tender documents will solely be delivered to Tenderers who inform the Client of readiness for participating in the Tender process by sending a formal letter with the subject of "tender subject and number"; addressed to Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company
- Client's email address: **dabir@tpc.co.ir**

Deadline to Submit the Offers: Latest by 10:00 a.m. (IRST) on Monday November 28, 2022

Tender Opening Date: At 11:00 a.m. (IRST) on Monday November 28, 2022

Home to various tribes, Golestan is a symbol of unity: governor-general

TEHRAN – Golestan's governor-general has said the northern Iranian province, which is home to various tribes and ethnic groups, is an exemplar of unity for the country.

"The coexistence of different ethnic groups in this province, together with peace, purity, and intimacy, is a model for the whole country," Ali-Mohammad Zanganeh said on Friday.

He made the remarks addressing a tribal festival that is currently underway in Gorgan, CHTN reported.

"The type of life of ethnic groups in Golestan is linked with unity and cohesion... and now, the presence of different ethnic groups in this province is an example for the whole country," the official explained.

"Golestan is the rainbow of Iran's tribe people and the gateway to Central Asia," he said.

Qashqai nomads, Iran (Photo credit: Marie Wilson/ Shutterstock)

The ancient county is home to many regional people, including ones with Turk and Arab elements, in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, and Jews, among others.

According to data compiled by the Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran, the nomadic inhabitants of the country have decreased from 38.6 percent of the whole Iranian population in the Iranian year 1245 (1866) to 9.6 percent in the year 1345 (1966) and around one percent currently.

Visitors may see true contentment in their children's tanned yet happy faces and pride in their modest lifestyle. Some say the bright colors of the nomads' glittering clothes contrast with the dull fashions of our modern fashion.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or two, can be a life-time experience. As a traveler, you have the chance to visit, live, eat and sleep in a nomad camp with a real nomad family. Colorful clothing, huge black curtains, children with colorful eyes and rosy cheeks, a modest lifestyle, a picturesque landscape and local food are probably among the joys of such visits.

Indigenous language, music, cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, performances and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always inspired many people to discover life among the tribes.

Cheap accommodation, a necessity for Mashhad, official says

TEHRAN – It is essential for Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, to establish cheap accommodation, the provincial tourism chief has said.

It is imperative that travelers to Mashhad find cheap accommodation because of the high prices and rising costs, Seyyed Javad Mousavi explained on Sunday, ISNA reported.

The city of Mashhad is a destination for pilgrimage journeys and should not charge travelers for a wide range of services, the official added.

In return, tourism facilities would be exempt from taxes, but if their occupancy capacity is below 70 percent, they would be required to pay double, he noted.

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city which embraces the shrine complex of the eighth Shia Imam.

Before the coronavirus puts almost everything on lockdown, Mashhad played host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the holy shrine.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted around the holy shrine. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded.

Karaj's Shah Abbasi caravanserai to turn into handicrafts center

TEHRAN ––The Safavid era (1501-1736) Shah Abbasi caravanserai in the city of Karaj, the capital of Alborz province, is planned to turn into a handicrafts center, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The historical inn has been abandoned for a while, but it has the potential to become a center for handicrafts, ISNA quoted Shahram Alimohammadi as saying on Sunday.

Last year, provincial tourism chief Fereydoun Mohammadi announced that Karaj eyes to be named a national city of handicrafts.

Due to Alborz's status as the capital of tribes and the presence of various ethnic groups living in this region, the handicrafts in this region are of great variety, he said.

Being recognized as a hub for handicrafts gives several craftspeople, who are practicing different fields of handicrafts in workshops scattered across the province, the opportunity of promoting their works as well as helping tourism development in the region, the official added.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1401/108-43/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :
Leasing 8 MHz space segment on Azerspace Satellite for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
From Tuesday 15 Nov 2022 (1401/08/24) 09:30 a.m until Saturday 19 Nov 2022 (1401/08/28) by 02:00 p.m with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is usd 20000 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 7/200/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than 09:30 a.m. on Tuesday 20 Dec 2022 (1401/09/29) at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on Tuesday 20 Dec 2022 (1401/09/29) at 10:00 a.m in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on Tuesday 20 Dec 2022 (1401/09/29) at 15:00 p.m in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.
Fore more information please see :
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

Iranian knowledge-based products target Africa

TEHRAN – Iranian knowledge-based companies will attend the Export Gateway to Africa exhibition to facilitate access to the African market.

The Export Gateway to Africa will take place at Turkey's Istanbul Expo Center on December 17-19, with the aim of creating a wide trade network extending to Africa.

Companies active in the fields of "oil, gas, petrochemical, polymer and plastic", "agricultural products, machinery, beverages, food and packaging", "medical equipment, health and medicine", "technical and engineering services", "machinery industries and equipment", "transportation and logistics", "building and construction materials", "tourism", "information technology, telecommunications, electricity, electronics and smart city", "mining industries", and "textiles, clothing, bags, and shoes" can display their products in the expo.

This exhibition provides the opportunity to meet the world's leading brands and suppliers, research, trade, discover innovations, and benefit from the experience of leading decision makers in various industries to the Iranian firms, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Knowledge-based companies and creative startups have grown over the past five years, and Iran has risen 45 places in the Global Innovation Index, according to the UNESCO 2021 Report.

Strengthening knowledge-based companies on agenda

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year (March 2022-March 2023) as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

In this regard, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

Moreover, in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem development, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established with the aim of empowering and strengthening the export capacity of knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies.

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunications, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors in which researchers in technology companies are working.

> Knowledge-based companies and creative startups have grown in Iran over the past five years.

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, the former vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari said in February.

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.

Large intl. drug trafficking gang destroyed

TEHRAN – The Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police destroyed a large international network of drug trafficking in the eastern borders of the country.

By using foreign nationals and adopting professional methods under the cover of the public transport fleet, they tried to transfer large shipments of drugs from eastern borders to other provinces, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Some 300 to 400 kilograms of narcotics on average daily were distributed across the country by the gang.

According to the judicial order, 32 drug traffickers who were the main elements of the network were arrested and 1,054 bank accounts belonging to the members of the network were blocked; in addition, a large amount of property and assets belonging to this network were seized.

Leading country in narcotics seizure

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Eskander Momeni, secretary general of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 48 percent of morphine, and 26 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime attaches special importance to the regional and global role of Iran in the fight against narcotics and, as a leading United Nations agency, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, said in June.

In the Iranian calendar year ended in March 2021,

about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), more than 3,800 have been martyred, and 12,000 wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of the world's opium, 48 percent of the world's morphine, and 26 percent of the world's heroin were seized by Iran.

Mobile sources responsible for 83% of Tehran's air pollution

TEHRAN – Some 83 percent of air pollution in Tehran and 70 percent in other big cities of the country are caused by mobile sources, Abdollah Motevalli, deputy director of the Standards and Quality Inspection Company, has said.

There are two main types of air pollution sources, mobile sources including cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains, and stationary sources such as oil refineries, industrial facilities, and factories.

Some 40 percent of the emission is produced by stationary sources, while 60 percent of the pollution is generated from mobile sources.

Compliance with the executive regulations and issuing the vehicle inspection certificate, traffic police dealing with cars without inspection labels and intensifying inspection supervision will definitely reduce the impact of mobile sources on air pollution in cities, Motevalli further highlighted.

He went on to note that in line with the implementation of the clean air law, a total of 669 technical inspection centers for light vehicles, 179 centers for heavy vehicles, and 447 hydrostatic laboratories have been active throughout the country, IRNA reported on Sunday.

All motor vehicles, including light, semi-heavy, and heavy motorcycles used by government, public and non-government sectors; are required to obtain a technical examination certificate, which can be highly effective in reducing air pollution, optimizing fuel consumption and car safety, and consequently the health of citizens.

21,000 Iranians die of air pollution in a year

During the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), more than 21,000 people died in 27 cities of the country due to air pollution, Darioush Gol Alizadeh, head of the national center for weather and climate change affiliated with the Department of Environment, said in August.

According to the report of the Ministry of Health, in 27 polluted cities of the country, about 21,000 deaths caused by PM 2.5 have happened in the country, which caused $11 billion in damage, and 6,000 deaths related to air pollution have also been reported in Tehran.

Over the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021), 40 polluted days were reported in Tehran. Last year, also 30 days were

> Mobile sources of pollution include cars, planes, and trains, while stationary sources include refineries, industrial units, and factories.

polluted and this year, we breathed polluted air for 85 days since the beginning of the year, he further explained.

Part of the emitters in Tehran is due to the traffic of diesel cars that use regular diesel fuel, Gol Alizadeh said.

Some 34 million liters of gasoline with Euro 4 and 5 standards are distributed daily in metropolitan cities and transportation hubs, which according to the plan should have reached 70 million liters by 2017, while the average daily consumption of gasoline and diesel is 90 million liters, which reaches 105 million liters some days, he lamented.

In winter, the amount of gas consumption in the domestic sector reaches from 550 million cubic meters to 650 million cubic meters, which has increased by 20 percent, and if we have a one-degree decrease in temperature, about 25 million cubic meters can be saved, and it can easily provide a part of the needs of power plants, he said.

DESERTS IN IRAN

Part 7

Interdependence of biaban and abadi

The distribution of settlements further illustrates the importance of the arid zone as a conduit. Most towns with Iranian names, from Baghdad (Iraq) to Yarkand (China) lie within this zone.

Others nestle to one side in fertile valleys surrounded by barren mountains. The oldest were founded on rivers that drain into the deserts. Some of these rivers (e.g., the Jaxartes, Zarafshan, and Zayandarud) have supported major agricultural and urban development close to the mountains, whereas others (e.g., the Oxus, Morghab, and Helmand) have produced major oases in the desert.

But most cities, a good example being Nishapu, were founded on rivers that probably never provided a reliable perennial water supply.

To be continued

Source: Iranica

The evolving synthesis of research on later prehistoric and protohistoric periods suggests that it continued in this function (Dyson; Voigt). The swift progress of Arab armies in the 7th century is a later example.

Similarly, in subsequent centuries conversion to Islam was consolidated more quickly throughout this zone, from North Africa to Central Asia, than outside it. Since the 1st millennium B.C.E. Persian cultural influence has moved through this conduit in both directions.

For example, religious influences spread early to the west, affecting both Greek and Roman paganism and the Judeo-Christian tradition. Later Persian literary and bureaucratic practices spread mainly to the east and predominated in Central and South Asia into the 20th century.

Varzaneh awarded Ramsar wetland city accreditation

From page 1 ▸ On November 10, the certificate of wetland city accreditation was officially handed over to the mayor of Varzaneh, Hamed Akhgar.

The relationship between the international Gavkhuni wetland and the livelihood of the people of Varzaneh is a point that now only the stability of the water flow in the life-giving river of Zayandehrud can maintain.

Except for the city of Varzaneh, the city of "Bandar Khamir" near the Khorkhoran International Wetland in Hormozgan province, this year was recognized and introduced as the first wetland city in Iran by the Ramsar Convention.

Wetland City Accreditation scheme

The 172 Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands have agreed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in their territories.

Recognizing the importance of cities and urban wetlands, the Convention has introduced a Wetland City accreditation scheme (Resolution XII.10).

This voluntary scheme provides an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts.

The Wetland City Accreditation scheme will encourage cities in close proximity to and dependent on wetlands, especially Wetlands of International Importance, to highlight and strengthen a positive relationship with these valuable ecosystems, for example through increased public awareness of wetlands and participation in municipal planning and decision-making.

The Accreditation scheme should further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local people.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Green taxes not used for environmental development'

While the Municipality of Tehran receives green taxes paid by pollutant industries, the money is not used for developing the environment or improving the industries, Ali Moridi, head of department of environment's (DOE) soil and water office has said.

The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Referring to proper laws adopted on waste management, he stated that there are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling.

"Accordingly, if industries do not produce contaminated or hazardous waste, they will be subjected to tax exemptions," he added.

عوارض آلایندگی صَرف ارتقای محیط زیست نمی‌شود

مدیرکل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلاینده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار علمی ایرنا، «علی مریدی» سه شنبه افزود: در سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا زمینه‌ای فراهم شود عوارض آلایندگی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب‌ها کمک کنیم.

مدیر کل دفتر اب و خاک سازمان حفاظت ادامه داد: البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 13

New cases	57
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,558,950
Total deaths	144,612
New hospitalized patients	26
Patients in critical condition	73
Total recovered patients	7,334,013
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,465,142
Doses of vaccine injected	155,024,531

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NOVEMBER 14 , 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He is the wisest and the most knowing man who advises people not to lose hope and faith in the Mercy of Allah and not to be too sure and over-confident of immunity from His Wrath and Punishment.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:18 Dawn: 5:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:39 (tomorrow)

Iran Book Week opens sooner than planned due to Qatar World Cup

From Page **1** ▸ Videos of the theater productions "God's Cookies" by Arash Sharifzadeh and "Goodbye, Old Raccoon" by Fahimeh Mirzahosseini will be screened. The plays have been staged based on books by the Tehran-based French writer and illustrator Claire Jobert.

Inspired by Ali Khakbazan's book, "The Old Man and the Tiger" by Hassan Dadashgar will also be available on the platform during the week.

The National Library and Archives of Iran is also conducting some cultural programs.

Experts on rare manuscripts will come together at the library on Tuesday to attend the unveiling of a Holy Quran manuscript dating back to the Timurid period (1370–1507). The book will be on view until the end of the book week on Friday.

Groups of culture aficionados will visit the library in nine tours, and dozens of workshops, exhibitions and book review sessions will be organized.

The library also plans to honor several top librarians and reading promoters.

A file photo shows bookworms visiting a Shiraz branch of Bookland, an Iranian book chain.

Shahnameh as a historical source

Part 3

These Xwaday-namags, the narratives of which must have been conflated both before and after Islam, were later translated into Arabic and Persian.

Of course, this assumption does not rule out that Khosrow I may have commissioned a great Xwaday-namag sometime during his reign.

It also does not exclude the possibility that his Xwaday-namag, perhaps due to its royal character, was considered the best or the most prestigious specimen of the genre.

One outcome of this situation was that the real histories of the reigning local aristocracies were grafted onto the mythical history of Iran in these Xwaday-namags, which formed the interface between the real and the legendary histories of Iran.

The formation of the Pre-Islamic Iranian epic literature. Bits and pieces of Iran's legendary history have survived in Persian and Arabic sources.

These fragments strongly imply that three types of narratives contributed to the formation of the pre-Islamic Iranian epic literature.

First, local histories, for instance those about different cities of Fars which Masudi (896-956) claims were compiled in books. Some of these have survived as parts of classical Persian and Arabic local histories.

Second, literary epics such as those about Bahram VI Chubin and Garshasp (Karshasp) to which certain classical authors refer. Third, a national epic that told the ethnic history of Iran from her mythical beginnings to sometime during the Sassanid rule.

To assume that Khosrow I patronized the preparation of the most complete form of this national narrative in a royal redaction is plausible.

However, as mentioned before, other great aristocratic houses must have commissioned their own versions of it in their territories for their own purposes.

These various compilations of the national epic, like the Four Gospels of the New Testament in Western Christian tradition, told the same story in different versions.

The Iranian narratives were in conversation with one another and with Iran's oral tradition. They differed from one another not because they were divergent textual versions of the same textual archetype, but because they were different books about the same national narrative, but written by different authors for different reasons.

Omidsalar believes such a scenario better explains the vast divergence in the manuscript tradition of the Xwaday-namag reported by Bahram the priest and other translators to whom Hamza of Esfahan refers.

Therefore, the Xwaday-namag – like the early Shahnamehs themselves – must be considered as several texts belonging to the same literary genre rather than consisting of a single book.

A large number of Xwaday-namags and other independent epic tales must have existed between the 3rd and mid-7th centuries CE. Many of these must have survived after the advent of Islam and must have been available in Arabic or Persian translations.

The wording of classical Arabic and Persian authors who speak of "books of history" (kotob al-siar) leaves little doubt about this. The agreement of the accounts of early Muslim historians with respect to the general narrative of the pre-Islamic Iranian history confirms that these translations were used extensively by early Muslim historians for constructing the pre-Islamic sections of their works.

This also explains the general similarity between the works of these historians and the narrative of the Shahnameh.

Another interesting implication of this situation is that it has led a number of authorities to the conclusion that "the idea of historical composition on a grand scale" was introduced into Muslim historiography under the influence of the Xwaday-namag through its various Arabic translations.

Furthermore, the classical Muslim authors' belief in the "historicity" of the Shahnameh's main source, namely the Xwaday-namag, via the Abu Mansur's prose Shahnameh, is evident from Hamza's statement that the Xwaday-namag came to be known by the title of "The Book of the History of the Persian Kings" or by other similar titles.

Although by the 10th century CE, Arab and Persian historiographers routinely drew upon the available epic sources and in effect converted epic to history, they also tended to leave out the material that appeared outlandish, unbelievable, or otherwise irrelevant to their projects. The editorial license that Muslim authors allowed themselves is clearly stated in their works.

Several additional factors contributed to the process of the conversion of a literary genre into history. The most important of these was the desire on the part of the Iranian converts to incorporate their native traditions into the universal history of Islam.

These men speculated on which ancient kings and heroes were the contemporaries of which prophets of the Muslim tradition, and managed to find a niche for their mythological characters within the universal history of Islam.

Other pre-Islamic narratives, such as the foundation legends of cities and buildings were also incorporated into Islamic historiography via the sources of the Shahnameh.

The effect of this shared body of sources has contributed on the one hand to the perception of the Shahnameh as history, and on the other to the influence of the Shahnameh's narrative on Muslim historiography in general.

Didactic function of Shahnameh

A strong didactic and practical strand existed in Muslim historiography from the beginning.

The Shahnameh and its archetypes were considered efficacious in this respect because they served as manuals of rule and as means of conveying the practical experiences of the ancients to the generations that followed.

Reports of Muslim rulers who followed the example of Persian kings abound in classical texts of the Islamic civilization. For instance, Muawiyah is said to have been fond of listening to histories of Persian kings (siar al-ajam) both for entertainment and for edification.

This is also reported of the Umayyad Caliph, Marwan, Harun al-Rashid and a number of other Abbasid rulers. The tradition of consulting the histories/stories of ancient rulers for didactic or entertainment purposes may be traced to pre-Islamic Persia.

According to the Shahnameh, after he was deposed, blinded, and imprisoned, Hormozd IV (r. 579-90 CE) asked his successor to send him someone who could read stories of Iran's ancient kings to him from a book.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Chicago children's filmfest picks movies from Iran

A scene from "The Apple Day" directed by Mahmud Ghaffari.

TEHRAN – Seven movies by Iranian filmmakers are competing in the 39th Chicago International Children's Film Festival (CICFF).

Directed by Mahmud Ghaffari, "The Apple Day" is one of the films selected for the Live-Action Feature Film category.

It won a Silver Apricot and FIPRESCI Prize at the Yerevan Golden Apricot International Film Festival in July.

"The Apple Day" follows a first-grade primary school teacher in a poor suburb of Tehran, who assigns a letter to each student and asks them to bring items starting with the assigned letter related to their fathers' jobs.

Mehdi's father is a fruit seller and he must bring 30 apples (seeb in Farsi) to class on the S Day. However, an unfortunate event immerses the family in a crisis. Saeid, Mehdi's older brother, has to find a way to overcome this challenge and help Mehdi for "the apple day".

"The Boot" by Mohsen Purmohseni-Shakib is competing in the short animated movie section.

It is about a mother bird, which attempts to support her babies amidst a city desolated by war and bombings. She searches among the rubble for a worm to feed the baby birds, but both food and life are a scarcity in this shell-shocked town. The mother bird must therefore get creative in order to save both herself and her children's lives.

The section also features "The Crow" directed by Ahura Shahbazi.

The animation tells the story of a crow, which is tired of living among the other crows in their small community. It decides to leave and follow an eagle. As the crow follows, he comes across several trials before the eagle accepts him and allows him to travel beside him. Returning from his journey, the crow returns to the other crows and presents his new form, inspiring another crow to begin the journey.

"Adjustment" by Mehrdad Hassani, "Deer" by Hadi Babaifar, "Destiny" by Yaser Talebi and "Dot" by Mohammad Zare' will be screened in the different categories of the first competitive festival of films for children in the U.S., which will run until November 20.

"The Young Musician's Survival Guide" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "The Young Musician's Survival Guide: Tips from Teens and Pros" by Amy Nathan has been published in Persian.

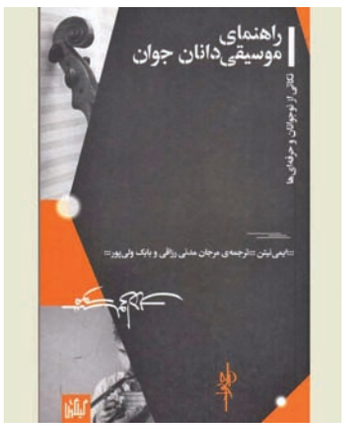
Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book translated by Marjan Madani and Babak Valipur.

Learning to play an instrument can be fun and, at times, frustrating. This lively, accessible book helps young people cope with the difficulties involved in learning a new instrument and remaining dedicated to playing and practicing.

Teens from renowned music programs, including the Juilliard School's Pre-College Program and Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, join pro musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, Paula Robison and James Galway in offering practical answers to questions from what instrument to play to where the musical road may lead.

In this revised and expanded edition, Amy Nathan has updated the book to address today's more technologically-minded young musicians.

Expanded sections cover the various ways students can use technology to assist in mastering an instrument and in making practice time more productive, from using the Internet to download pieces to be learned and playing along with downloaded tunes to practicing with computer-based practice programs, CDs, and videos/DVDs of musical performances.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Amy Nathan's book "The Young Musician's Survival Guide".

She also addresses concerns of young composers and conductors, two groups not mentioned in the original edition.

The book's updated Resource Guide suggests where to get additional help, both online and off.

The novel in which the reader has a decisive role in the fate of events

An interview with the author of the book "Alongside the Commander"

In Muhammad Kazeminiya's intelligence-security novel "Alongside the Commander," the "book reader" serves as the second most significant decision-maker in the story after the first character, "Commander," who plays the lead role.

*** Would you elaborate more on your book and the composing of it?**

"Alongside the Commander" is an informational-operational novel with a unique level of excitement. The book's atmosphere is very modern, and the audience can completely immerse themselves in it. The story's style is important, and it is one of the book's pillars, as well as its most appealing feature. The book's style is chosen in such a way that the audience has a role in choosing the path of the story, and any problem or incident that occurs in the story's continuation is entirely the audience's duty.

*** What was the inspiration behind writing this book?**

The main goal of this book was to put the audience in that situation and see how they would react and make decisions under that circumstance. The inspiration for this book was to connect teenagers and young people with the significant events that happened during this crucial period in the history of Islam and events that have a positive impact still in the Islamic society.

*** Currently, how much access does a narrator or historian have to the documents and sources he needs, and what are the obstacles in front of someone who wants to access these sources and documents?**

History is ambiguous, which means that even though many cases haven't been resolved for us as they should have been, we can still find a lot of hints with further investigation. We have a historical text and a historical analysis because the historical text contains hints from the past, but it is the content analysis that can unravel the maze of issues. Another issue in this field is that some novels call for details, but the translated sources are not always as accurate as they should be.

We put a lot of time into the research before we started writing the book; that is, the research was done first, and then it was turned into a cohesive story that we hope the audience will enjoy.