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Crushed in the West Encouraged in Iran

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Report **T**

Ukraine sent foreign volunteers “unprepared on reckless missions”: report

A report by The Insider has exposed the deadly crisis facing volunteers who joined the ranks of the Ukrainian army fighting Russian forces.

When Kyiv announced the formation of an international legion on February 27, thousand are said to have lined up at Ukrainian embassies worldwide to add their names to the list.

In the U.S., some Americans already had experience in war zones, having previously fought in Washington's invasion or occupation of countries like Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan, while others had none whatsoever.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in the first few weeks alone (after the war erupted on February 20 when Moscow announced what it described as a “special military operation”), some 20,000 volunteers from dozens of nations answered the call to arms and registered their names as volunteers.

In March a top defense official at Ukraine's Washington DC embassy revealed that about 3,000 of them were U.S. citizens.

Since then, some reports have emerged about the volunteer corps of foreign citizens in the military service of Ukraine abandoning the country because of a lack of equipment, a poor organization as well as reckless or drunk commanders. **Page 5**

Report **T**

Iran women handball steal the show

TEHRAN – Iranian women handball team earned their place at the World Championships for the second successive year and it shows that the sport has improved a lot in the Asian country.

Team Melli came fourth in the 2022 Asian Women's Handball Championship in South Korea and won their place in the 2023 World Women's Handball Championship.

The Persian women had also competed in the competition last year and finished 31st out of 32 teams.

Now, they are going to show a better performance in their second presence in the prestigious event.

“One of the most important ideas of Iran Handball Federation is to raise a generation of great handball players of Iranian children, to develop their future and create a great team in our country,” Iran handball federation president Alireza Pakdel had already said in an interview with IHF.info.

“The federation has already planned to create some programs throughout the entire country, enabling children to be more and more interested in handball. The idea is to promote handball as a fun activity to usher the children to try and play handball, while also creating the proper environment for their families,” he added.

“In the last decade, we had plenty of plans for identifying talented young players, but everything really got better and better in the last three years, due to the support of people and sponsors. The result is, for us, phenomenal. In a very short period of time, we found excellent players that made an unbelievable impact on the future of Iranian handball,” he said.



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Basij is best example of volunteerism

December 5 is named International Volunteer Day (IVD). It highlights the power of collective humanity to drive positive change through volunteerism.

The UN Volunteers (UNV) program coordinates IVD on 5 December annually to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.

According to available statistics, there are more than 1 billion volunteers around the world. Women account for great number of volunteers.

Also, according to global statistics, the highest number of volunteers are active in assisting the hungry and the homeless and helping improve people's health.

In Iran the Basij Organization, that was formed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, exemplifies the most effective volunteerism. Basij members do services to people without any expectations. Now Basij has now turned into a thought, culture and discourse in Iran. **Page 2**

Iran's cereal production rises 17.3% in current crop year: FAO

TEHRAN – Cereal production in Iran is estimated to grow 17.3 percent in the current crop year compared to the previous year, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report released on December 2.

Based on the said report, the Islamic Republic produced 20.8 million tons of cereals in the current year, 3.59 million tons more than the figure for the previous year.

According to FAO, Near East countries' total cereal production in 2022 is estimated at 70.6 million tons, about 0.5 million tons be-

low the previous five-year average, but about 12 percent above the drought-affected output in 2021.

“The partial production recovery [of the mentioned region] at the aggregate level is mostly accounted for by increases in Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the report said. **Page 4**



© ISNA / Mohammad Alesorous

The joy of autumn snow

Young boys in the northeastern city of Mashhad are playing as the first autumn snow has blanketed the city.

According to meteorological maps, precipitation in the country is expected to meet normal or above-normal averages over the next month.

Source of inspiration: Iran's Pahlavani and Zoorkhanei rituals

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN– So far, a wide variety of Iranian elements have gained a place on UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity aimed at protecting the cultural achievements of mankind.

Named a UNESCO heritage in 2010, Pahlavani and Zoorkhanei rituals are one of those elements long been a source of inspiration for other nations.

It is interesting that a similar element, which is practiced in Azerbaijan, gained UNESCO status last week at the 17th session of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee held in Morocco.

In that regard, Mostafa Pourali, who is in charge of cultural heritage protection, says: “The newly registered case just indorses the Iranian tradition.”

“From the perspective of the UNESCO Con-

vention in the field of intangible cultural heritage, the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan has registered an element similar to an Iranian case does not harm Iran's case. Moreover, it further promotes Iran's intangible cultural heritage.”

Pourali made the remarks in response to a question about whether the new registration overshadows the previously inscribed element or not. **Page 6**

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Tehran Papers **T**

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Western dichotomy in classifying protests to good and bad!

The conservative Kayhan newspaper criticized the double standard of the West regarding street protests. **Page 2**

Iran executes 4 thugs found to have connections to Mossad

TEHRAN – Four thugs who had been found guilty of having connections to Israel's Mossad spy agency were put to death early on Sunday, the Iranian judiciary announced.

The four convicted individuals were named as Hossein Ordukhazadeh, Shahin Imani Mahmoodabad, Milad Ashrafi Atbatan, and Manouchehr Shahbandi Bejandi in the judiciary's announcement.

The four men were detained by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in June (IRGC). They were eventually given the death penalty by a court for both kidnapping and intelligence collaboration with the Zionist regime.

According to an earlier IRGC statement, the squad had received training from Mossad personnel on how to utilize combat weapons for kidnapping operations while being reimbursed with bitcoins. **Page 2**

Over 570 foreign films submitted to Fajr festival

TEHRAN – The organizers of the Fajr International Film Festival announced on Saturday that they have received 578 submissions to the international competition of the 41st edition of the event.

The submissions are from 72 countries, including the USA, Germany, France, England, Denmark, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, China and Lebanon.

A selection of the submissions will compete in Salvation Cinema, the official section of the event, and Eastern Vista, a category dedicated to Asian films.

The festival is Iran's major film event from the Fajr festival series, which is organized every year in February to celebrate the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

The festival is also organized in music, theater, visual arts and several other fields.

Mojtaba Amini, the producer of the controversial TV series “Gando”, was appointed as president of the Fajr Film Festival in April.

The series reveals the true story of the major espionage case of Jason Rezaian, an Iranian-American journalist who served as Tehran bureau chief for the Washington Post. **Page 8**

TEHRAN PAPERS

Western dichotomy in classifying protests to good and bad!

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

from page 1 ▶ "The leaders of some Western countries severely suppress not only the rioters, but also the peaceful environmental protestors; however, when it comes to deal with the separatist and murderous terrorists in Iran, they fully support them by placing them under the title of 'protesting people'. This scandal and contradiction have reached a point where the London-based Saudi Iran International TV channel, with the full support of the British government, publicly calls for the assassination and killing of Iranian police forces."

In another report, Kayhan criticized a reformist newspaper and wrote: "The reform claimants announced to be the voice of the Kurdish people, but the censorship of the important news of the water supply project to Sanandaj in their media outlets showed that deceiving people is their only intention."

Etamad: Four scenarios for JCPOA

The reformist Etamad newspaper addressed the complex situation facing the JCPOA and mentioned four scenarios in this case.

Some insist that the revival of JCPOA should be considered a failed project and that JCPOA basically no longer has an external existence.

Regarding the West's maximum pressure policy against Iran, some believe that the other party is trying to gain more concessions and force Tehran to back down from some of its positions, as figures such as Lawrence Norman, the Wall Street Journal reporter, or Ali Vaez, who are close to the American negotiating team, believe that even if Iran had consented with the final text on the table at the end of August, the American side would have not accepted it.

In order to save the core of the agreement, some have gone back to the proposal of the temporary agreement and talk about its advantages compared to the consequences of a complete failure of the agreement. In this scenario, the West can seek a halt to the sensitive parts of Iran's nuclear program, and Tehran can benefit from limited economic advantages in exchange for waiving of some sanctions by the other party.

A few people predict that the West, including Europe and the United States, will seek to buy time and create a space to revive the JCPOA, even if the idea of a temporary agreement is proposed. JCPOA plus could mean including more nuclear commitments for Iran in the text of the new agreement or negotiations about Iran's missile capabilities and regional activities."

Vatan-e Emrooz: Anti-terrorist recommendation

The conservative Vatan-e Emrooz has said the main project of the architects of the riots is to create insecurity, civil war and destruction, and they do not refuse terrorist actions.

"The behavior and remarks of the subversives in recent months has had a terrorist aspect. In their speeches, they threaten individuals with terrorist revenge, and have committed terrorist acts, such as attacking security forces, whenever they have found an opportunity. In this situation, countering them is a counter-terrorism measure. Endangering national security by threatening people and forcing them to do something that is favorable to terrorists is intolerable. And tolerant behavior will only exacerbate insecurities," Vatan-e Emrooz reported, calling for anti-terrorist action.

Sharq: Obligatory popularity

In a commentary the Sharq newspaper said the national football team and more specifically the players are in a critical moment.

"The new partiality of some officials and conservative figures towards the players of the national football team is also due to political expediency and related to the 'current atmosphere' in Iran, otherwise many of these players have been at the center of criticism before being considered a 'red line,'" the author wrote.

"In the meantime, of course, one should only feel sorry for the players of the national team who have inadvertently entered a space where they are criticized by both or more sides. At this point, they are in a dilemma and do not know what kind of behavior will turn them back into the same national team that will be loved by 'everyone' and not confiscate this team and its achievements for their own benefit," the newspaper said.

Hamshahri: Virtual dictators

The Hamshahri newspaper, which mostly reflects the views of the Tehran Municipality, put the spotlight on virtual dictators in social media.

"Virtual dictatorship" by the vandals has featured highly in the recent incidents. This approach is in clear contradiction with the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom" and does not tolerate any opposition voice and tries to silence opponents by creating an "atmosphere of terror".

In recent weeks, we have seen many different manifestations of it, from the coercion and intimidation of shopkeepers and market traders to close their shops to threatening truck drivers and others to go on strike. They are all clear examples of the dictatorial behavior of people who chant the slogan of freedom and accuse the Islamic Republic of suppressing the voice of opposition.

Arman Emrooz: Unanswered letters

The reformist Arman Emrooz newspaper reflected part of a debate between Mohammad Ali Abtahi, a reformist political activist, and Mohammad Saeed Ahadian, a political advisor to the speaker of the parliament.

"Khatami, in three letters to the Leader, suggested to deal with the [domestic] issues from the first step, which, however, have gone unanswered. This is while some say 'why reformists do not do anything', which is a non-strategic expectation, and the subversives insult us and say 'you are the safety valve of the Islamic Republic'."

"The government should try to have an intermediary to listen to the rebellious generation, whose best option was the reformists, but they ruined this option, and now the people are the neighbors of the government, and in crises tensions emerge between the two," Arman Emrooz quoted Abtahi as saying.

Two persons directly involved in killing Basij member in Isfahan arrested



TEHRAN - The public relations office of the IRGC in Isfahan province announced on Sunday that two main persons involved in assassinating Reza Dastani, a Basij member, have been arrested.

It said the operatives were detained by security forces before trying to flee the country.

Reza Dastani, 37, was gunned down in the city of Isfahan on the morning of November 28 while on way to his work. He is survived by two children.

'Extra-regional fleets have dramatically reduced presence in Persian Gulf'

TEHRAN - Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, said on Sunday that Iran has established security in the Persian Gulf and therefore extra-regional fleets have dramatically reduced their presence in this highly strategic waterway.

"The significant reduction of extra-regional fleets in the Persian Gulf indicates the lasting security that the Islamic Republic of Iran has established in the region," Bagheri said in an interview with official news agency IRNA before visiting an airbase in the southern city of Bushehr.

"The region's complete security, which has been maintained by 24-hour aircraft and naval patrols, shows the Islamic Republic of Iran's accountability," he noted.

"Under the ensured security in the Persian Gulf, we are witnessing the daily activities of people and coastal residents in the highly strategic province of Bushehr in the field of maritime trade and fishing, as well as activities in the field of oil and gas," the military



chief said, pointing to the benefits for residents in the Persian Gulf region.

Bagheri further stated that all military and law enforcement forces, including the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are fully prepared to guard national borders.

Iranian military and political authorities have repeatedly said that the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is a

"redline" and that the Islamic Republic will never compromise on protecting the nation's interests and resources.

They have maintained that there is no need for foreign military presence in the Persian Gulf and that the security should be established by littoral states.

Iranian authorities have also warned surrounding countries about the dangers of allowing Tel Aviv to find a foothold in the

region by describing Israel's disruptive operations as the primary cause of instability in the West Asia region.

'U.S. attempts to establish unipolar system failed'

During a meeting on Saturday with Colonel General Alexander Fomin, the Russian deputy defense minister, General Bagheri said the U.S. has realized that its unilateral strategy to establish a unipolar system has not been effective.

Bagheri also emphasized the importance of strengthening Tehran-Moscow collaboration on bilateral, regional, and global issues while defending both nations' sovereign interests and preserving regional peace and security.

He added that the ongoing talks between the two parties are necessary to reach that objective.

To attend the Iran-Russia joint committee on military cooperation, Fomin led a high-ranking military delegation that landed in Tehran on Saturday.

Iran executes 4 thugs found to have connections to Mossad

from page 1 ▶ The capture of the members of the gang who worked with Mossad was revealed by the IRGC public relations department in June.

The group used to kidnap individuals, steal and destroy private and public property, and force their victims to make false confessions.

They were instructed by a Mossad officer in Sweden, the Mizan news agency said.

The gang members abducted victims and collected bitcoin as ransom. They have admitted that they worked with foreign intelligence services and were paid to undermine Iran's security.



The gang network was connected to the Israeli spy service by Hossein Ordukhazadeh, who had been in jail in Greece from 2014-2017

for trafficking humans from Turkey to Greece.

Three other convicts who helped this vicious group were given sentences ranging from five to 10 years. They helped the gang in kidnapping and keeping arms.

suddenly in a hospital despite receiving extensive medical attention and resuscitation efforts.

In the recent unrest, American and occasionally European political figures, their media, as well as the Persian media sponsored by the West, took advantage of the unfortunate incident.

Basij is best example of volunteerism

from page 1 ▶ In Iran the Basij Organization, that was formed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, exemplifies the most effective volunteerism. Basij members do services to people without any expectations. Now Basij has now turned into a thought, culture and discourse in Iran.

Basij culture

The capture of the American embassy on November 4, 1979 by revolutionary and anti-imperialist students led to America's anger and practical threats against Iran. For example, their warships gradually entered in the Persian Gulf. In 1980, Imam Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic, ordered the formation of 20-million Basij.

By issuing such a decree, Imam

Khomeini brought the Iranian nation into the scene in the form of a general mobilization under national and Islamic values, and caused Iran's resistance against the United States' hegemony not limited to official organizations. Through this order national ordinary citizens were involved in country's affairs.

The initiative by Imam Khomeini in forming Basij, the largest volunteer population, marked a milestone in the history of the Islamic Revolution. Basij volunteer forces proved highly effective in defending the country in the face of the invading Saddam army in the 1980s. They fought against invaders along with forces from the Army and the IRGC.

The volunteer Basij forces shined splendidly due to their great sacrifices to the people and the coun-

try during Saddam's 8-year war against Iran. Basij did not remain just a military organization. It has now become a thought, culture and discourse. And millions of Iranians are enthusiastically offering voluntary services to their people and country and this is the culture of Basij.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, thousands of Basijis rushed to the aid of the medical staff. They voluntarily put themselves in danger of contracting the deadly virus to help the people. They provided millions of food handouts to the needy throughout the country. They entered the field without showing any sign of fear or fatigue. They provided inspiration for others.

Iran's nuclear martyrs were Basijis who developed Iran's nuclear

industry through a Basiji spirit. The late Saeed Kazemi Ashtiani was another scientific and Basij figure who founded and developed one of the important research institutes called Royan Research Institute in the field of reproductive medicine, stem cell technology and cloning in Iran. This institute is now considered one of the leading centers with international standards in the field of stem cells.

About Basij Culture Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on November 26 said: The Basij culture is a culture of self-effacing, hardworking volunteers. It is a culture of humble, undaunted fighters, a sense of braveness, a sense of serving mankind, and a sense of serving the country. It means making sacrifices for others.

West exploits human rights to scuttle JCPOA negotiations: MP



TEHRAN - An Iranian legislator has stressed that the West's latest rhetorical assaults against Iran over alleged human rights violations are intended to torpedo the talks to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi, a member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said that Western bloc, including the U.S., raise concerns about hu-

man rights while smashing the worst records in terms of global human rights.

He pointed out that the Western countries tried to impose their own demands on Iran by introducing restrictions on Iran's nuclear and missile advancements and that is why the nuclear talks did not produce good results for them.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) are used to further their influence over Iran, he argued, and sanctions are also used to exert pressure on Iranian officials. As a result, Jahanabadi said, they pursue a three-stage plan to replace the nuclear issues with human rights claims.

The IAEA Board of Governors and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted resolutions against Iran on November 18 and November 24 respectively. Iran says both resolutions were politically motivated.

'History of human rights violations'

Pointing to the Western hypocrisy toward human rights, MP Jahanabadi said the West has "a history of violating human rights and supporting regimes like the Zionist regime, which has a history of occupying lands, killing women and children, torturing men, as well as carrying out illegal and covert atomic activities."

He proceeded by stating that the West uses its media empire to highlight minor errors or vulnerabilities by the Islamic Republic while downplaying its own crimes in order to use them as a "weapon" against the Islamic system.

The West pushed for the UN human rights resolution against Iran in an effort to tarnish Iran's image in the world, the legislator said, adding the nation's diplomatic capabilities should be used effectively to enlighten authorities and regular people throughout the world about the Islamic Republic's positions.

Unrest cost over \$40 million in damages: Interior Ministry

TEHRAN - An official at Iran's Interior Ministry announced on Saturday that two-month-long riots had resulted in more than \$40 million in damages.

"This includes the damages

to administrative buildings and public locations as well as people's personal property," said Marjid Mir-Ahmadi, the deputy interior minister for security affairs.

Homes, businesses, and au-

tomobiles were among the destroyed personal property, he stated.

The State Security Council run by the Interior Ministry also released a statement on Satur-

day morning, saying the turmoil that followed the death of young woman Mahsa Amini in mid-September claimed the lives of 200 individuals, including security personnel, ordinary citizens, and rioters.

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – While a considerable number of Iranian law enforcement forces lost their lives due to their limited powers in countering unrest, the UK is considering turning the tide and expanding police powers in order to make protesters feel the “force” of law.

Facing a new, possible cost-of-living protests, the UK government is looking at a set of controversial suppressive measures ranging from army deployment to unleashing the powers of law enforcement forces.

Nadhim Zahawi, the chairman of the governing Conservative Party, has said that the UK government is considering deploying the army to help ease possible strike disruption over Christmas.

Zahawi told Sky News’ Sophy Ridge on Sunday program that military personnel could be “driving ambulances” and working on UK borders under the proposals.

The government has said that military personnel, civil servants and volunteers are being trained to support a range of services, including Border Force at airports and ports, amid fears of Christmas chaos.

The new measure come at a time when the UK is grappling with recession and the cost of living crisis.

Tens of thousands in various sectors are expected to take strike action to demand improvement of living standards at a time when Number 10 is believing that now is



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not the time to go on strikes.

Zahawi told Sky News that “this is not a time to strike”.

“If you chase inflation or above inflation, in some cases pay, then you will embed inflation for longer and hurt the most vulnerable,” he said, adding, “In fact, our message to the unions is to say, you know, this is not a time to strike. This is time to try and negotiate.”

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak took a tougher stance, describing protesters as a “selfish minority,” that breaks the law and that should be dealt with decisively.

“My view is that those who break the law should feel the full force of it,” he said.

Speaking after the meeting at No 10, he said the police had his support, according to

British media.

The prime minister said the police were already being given new powers to clamp down on illegal protests and would have his full support in acting decisively to end “the misery and disruption” caused to ordinary families.

“I’ve said to them [the police] whatever they need from government they will have in terms of new powers, we’re already giving them some, and I want to back them to use them,” he said.

The British approach toward protest astonished Iran observers who drew comparison between how Tehran and London dealt with unrest. Over the last two months, Iran has been gripped by unrest that broke out after the

death of Mahsa Amini.

The Iranian authorities have said that Iranian security forces exercise maximum restraint in dealing with the unrest that has gone violent. Iran also restricted the powers of the police in order to contain the unrest.

However, the West heaped human rights criticism on Iran for allegedly suppressing what they call protests. The West, particularly Germany, also pushed for a human rights resolution against Iran at the United Nations.

Iran rejected the West’s criticism as an abuse of the human rights issue.

On Sunday, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, lambasted the West for its double standards on human rights.

Commenting on the UK government’s decision to give new powers to the UK police, Kanaani quipped on Twitter, “The people’s protests in England, Germany, France, Canada, and Australia are bad and deserve to be dealt with decisively. But riots in their targeted countries are good and deserve support!”

He added, “The leaders of these regimes are now presenting their desired definition of rioting and protesting after classifying terrorism into good and bad ones.”

He also used a famous Persian proverb that reads “Death is good but only if it happens to the neighbor.” It refers to a situation where people rejoice at something bad that happens to others.

Iran, Russia set up mechanisms for bolstering relations

TEHRAN – Ali Bagheri Kani, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, has said that Iran and Russia have agreed to set up mechanisms for bolstering their ties.

Bagheri Kani visited Moscow on Friday and met with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Ryabkov.

“The relations between Iran and Russia have not been and are not limited only to the issue of Syria. Tehran and Moscow have very good cooperation with each other in the Caucasus region, and the 3+3 framework is a very good model for regional security in the Caucasus region,” Bagheri Kani said in remarks about his Moscow visit.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also mentioned the addition of Russia to the meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan’s neighboring countries at the suggestion of Iran.

Iran’s presidential envoy for Afghanistan recently said that Tehran is planning to hold a big international meeting on Afghanistan at the level of foreign ministers.

Speaking at the Moscow Format meeting on Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi said, “Iran is planning to hold a big meeting on Afghanistan at the level of foreign ministers in the near future in order to contribute to the improvement and stability of Afghanistan.”

He also said that what is happening in Afghanistan is the result of 20 years of the American occupation of Afghanistan, according to IRNA.

“Time passes very quickly and if we fail to manage the situation in Afghanistan, the situation will get worse,” he said at the meeting.

Qomi said the formation of an all-inclusive government in Afghanistan will facilitate the recognition of the country.

The Moscow Format includes Russia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Bagheri Kani said the issue of Afghanistan constitutes a good regional area of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow. “The issue of Afghanistan is also a very good area of regional cooperation between Iran and Russia for security in this country, especially when the Westerners have ended their so-called objective presence in Afghanistan,” he said, according to IRNA.

Commenting on the details of his visit to Russia, Bagheri Kani said, “In the meeting with their counterparts in Russia, the two sides once again reviewed Tehran-Moscow relations in the past few months and estimated the situation in the new period. And based on this, we also built frameworks and mechanisms to promote relations with agreement.”

He added, “Such interactions between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Iran and neighboring countries will both create a platform for the development of relations and strengthen relations in various fields, especially economic ones.”

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, said Bagheri Kani and Ryabkov discussed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“Deputy heads of Foreign Ministries of #Russia

and #Iran Mr. S. Ryabkov and Dr. A. Bagheri Kani met today in Moscow to discuss the prospects of full-scale implementation of the #JCPOA,” Ulyanov said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bagheri Kani had traveled to the Qatari capital Doha, where he discussed the JCPOA with his Qatari counterpart Mohammad al-Khulaifi.

Iranian media reported that Bagheri Kani, who has been Iran’s top nuclear negotiator in the Vienna talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, discussed bilateral, regional and international issues.

Upon his arrival, Bagheri Kani met with his Qatari counterpart, Mohammad al-Khulaifi. In the meeting, the two senior diplomats discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues.

The Qatari foreign ministry said the two diplomats also discussed the JCPOA. “During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to discussing the latest developments in the negotiations of the return to the joint action plan, as well as several regional and international issues of joint interest,” the Qatari foreign ministry said in a statement.

Talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal have been at a standstill for months. And U.S. officials have said that they are no longer focused on reviving the JCPOA.

On the other hand, Iran has said that it is ready for diplomacy and called on the West to refrain from exploiting other non-nuclear issues to extract concessions from Iran in the nuclear talks.

U.S. seeks to derail JCPOA talks: Moscow

TEHRAN – A Russian diplomatic source has reacted to remarks by the U.S. envoy for Iran on the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, saying that the time has come for the U.S. to stop derailing the talks.

The Russian diplomatic source told the RIA Novosti news agency that Moscow hopes that Washington will stop deviating from the path of revitalizing the nuclear deal and bring about the revival of the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Fars News reported.

US Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley said on Saturday that the U.S. is focused on “other things.”

“Iran is not interested in a deal and we’re focused on other things,” he alleged, noting, “Right now we can make a difference in trying to deter and disrupt the provision of weapons to Russia and trying to support the fundamental aspirations of the Iranian people.”

“What’s the point?” the U.S. envoy said of the stalled talks, adding, “Why should we focus on it if Iran comes back with demands that are

unacceptable? At this point we’re not going to focus on the nuclear deal because we can’t sort of keep going back and then being played.”

The Russian source reacted to Malley’s remarks, saying that “this is not a matter of choice. Americans must undo all the wrongs they have done before.”

The source continued, “From the other side of the ocean, statements are heard from time to time that question the adherence of the current American administration to its promises to return America to the JCPOA.”

The sourced said, “The Americans are definitely acting hastily and looking for a suitable excuse to deviate from the path of returning to the JCPOA, but this is not a matter of choice.”

The Russian diplomat stated that the United States is “obliged to adhere to Security Council Resolution 2231 and correct all violations of its obligations to UN Security Council resolutions.”

The Russian source stated, “The resolution presented against Iran in the November meeting of the Board of



Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency is another element of tension between Washington and its European partners.”

The diplomatic source emphasized that months of efforts by experts in the form of the Vienna meetings proved that it is possible to revive the JCPOA in accordance with the parameters that were initially agreed upon.

The source also lambasted the lack of will on the part of the U.S., saying, “Our American colleagues do not have enough political will to take the final step towards finalizing the agreement in this field. We hope that they will stop muddying the waters and together we will finish the issue of revitalizing the nuclear deal.”

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has recently said that the JCPOA is at risk because of

the behavior of the West, especially in regard to the West pushing for a censure resolution against Iran at the IAEA’s Board of Governors.

“JCPOA fate is hanging by a thread. Things got worse after a group of states pushed the anti-#Iran resolution at #IAEA #BoG. A classic example that some don’t learn from experience,” Ryabkov said, according to the Russian foreign ministry.

He added that Russia believes that with political will the agreement can be finalized fast.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Ministry Ali Bagheri Kani met in Moscow on Friday with his Russian counterpart Sergei Ryabkov.

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna who first broke the news on Twitter, said the two diplomats discussed the 2015 nuclear deal.

“Deputy heads of Foreign Ministries of #Russia and #Iran Mr. S. Ryabkov and Dr. A. Bagheri Kani met today in Moscow to discuss the prospects of full-scale implementation of the #JCPOA,” Ulyanov said.

Iran futsal to play Brazil

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team will play a friendly match with Brazil.

According to the Iranian media, the match will be held in next year’s September in Brazil.

Iran has asked Brazil to travel to Iran in April 2024 for the return match.

Team Melli, headed by Vahid Shamsaei, prepares for the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Iran to compete at IBSA Goalball World Championships

TEHRAN – Six para-athletes representing Iran will travel to Portugal on Sunday for the IBSA Goalball World Championships 2022.

Brazil are the reigning men’s champion and Russia the current women’s world champion, following victories at the last Goalball World Championships in Malmö in Sweden in 2018.

Iran have been drawn in Group D along with China, Lithuania, Ukraine, the U.S., Egypt, Mexico and Colombia.

The competition will be held in Matosinhos, Portugal from Dec. 7 to 16.

Iranian duo among World Cup Eliminated Best XI

TEHRAN – Ramin Rezaeian and Mehdi Taremi of Iran have been chosen among 11 players of the 2022 World Cup eliminated teams.

Having not featured in Iran’s demolition by England in the opening game, Rezaeian played both matches against Wales and the US. Rezaeian’s late goal in the 2-0 win over Wales was a moment to savor for the Iranian national team, as it was the first ever time Iran had beaten a European nation.

Sadly, it bowed out of the World Cup after losing to the US, but Rezaeian’s contributions to the squad with a WhoScored rating of 7.23 across the two games can’t be understated.

Porto’s Taremi opened his campaign with a brace against England, although Iran suffered a 6-2 loss. He will be unable to add to his tally after Iran was eliminated from the competition, but his performances against both England and Wales, where he picked up an assist and a WhoScored man of the match award, earned him his 7.31 rating and a place in this team: the best eliminated XI.

Carlos Queiroz leaves Iran

TEHRAN – Carlos Queiroz and his assistants left Tehran for Lisbon on Sunday.

He arrived in Iran Wednesday night with the Team Melli delegation.

The Portuguese coach has no contract with the Iran football federation any more.

Queiroz replaced Dragan Skocic as Iran’s coach in September but failed to meet expectations in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Under his guidance, Iran suffered two losses against England (6-2) and the U.S. (1-0) and defeated Wales (2-0).

Iran come 4th at 2022 Asian Women’s Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to China 39-24 on Sunday and finished in fourth place in the 2022 Asian Women’s Handball Championship.

South Korea won the title after beating Japan 34-29 in the final match.

Team Melli Banovan booked their place at the 2023 World Women’s Handball Championship as one of the top five teams.

The 2022 Asian Women’s Handball Championship took place in South Korea from Nov. 24 to Dec. 4.

11 Iran weightlifters to vie in Colombia

TEHRAN – Eleven weightlifters including four sportswomen are to represent Iran at the 2022 weightlifting world championships in Colombia.

Elaheh Razzaghi, Parisa Noor Ali, Elham Hosseini, and Zeinab Sheikh Arbab are the female members of Iran’s team.

The male members of the team include Hafez Qashqai, Mostafa Javadi, Kianoosh Rostami, Reza Dehdar, Mehdi Karami, Ali Davoodi, and Ayatollah Sharifi.

The 2022 World Championships is slated to be held in Bogota, Colombia from December 8 to 17.

The 2021 IWF Junior World Championships was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in May 2021, and Iran’s weightlifting team became runner-up with 548 points.

Russia finished in first place with 581 points and Uzbekistan came third with 525 points.

Esmailnezhad among players to watch at Club World Championships

TEHRAN – The FIVB Volleyball Club World Championships take place this month and the men’s tournament begins on December 7, when some of the top players in the world will be in action in Betim, Brazil.

Amin Esmailnezhad is certainly the hottest item on the roster of Paykan Club of Tehran, representing Asia at the upcoming Club World Championship in Brazil.

A bit of a late bloomer, the powerful 25-year-old opposite made headlines this summer as a key player of the Iranian national team at both the Volleyball Nations League, where the squad reached the quarterfinals and he was the second-best scorer of the Preliminary Phase, and the FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship.

Esmailnezhad was part of the squad that won the Asian Championship trophy in 2021 too, but also further back in time, he helped Iran win the Asian Cup in 2016 and the U23 Asian Championship in 2017.

As a player of Moghavemat Shahdab Yazd, Amin claimed a bronze medal at the 2022 Asian Club Championship and the national title in the 2022 Iranian league as well as the Most Valuable Player award.

He was transferred to Pas Gorgan for the start of the current season, but will play for Paykan on loan at the Club World Championship.

Australia’s Arnold calls for more support

TEHRAN – Australia head coach Graham Arnold left the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Saturday calling for greater investment in the sport in the country having seen his Socceroos knocked out by Lionel Messi’s Argentina at Ahmad bin Ali Stadium.

Messi scored the opener as the Copa America champions won 2-1 with Julian Alvarez capitalizing on an error by Maty Ryan to double the lead before Craig Goodwin’s shot was redirected into his own net by Enzo Fernandez to give the Australians a sliver of hope.

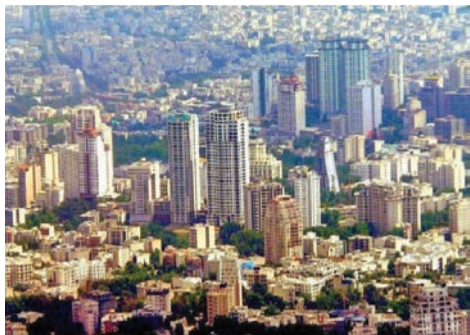
That goal set up a grandstand finish that saw Aziz Behich and Garang Kuol denied late opportunities to equalize and take the game into extra-time as the Argentinians moved through to a quarter-final meeting with the Netherlands on Friday.

“I just hope everyone back in Australia really respects what we’ve done,” said Arnold. “I’ve got to be very, very proud of the boys. Just so grateful at the effort they’ve put in for me.”

“Even when we’ve succeeded I think we’ve failed. I just want to win so badly, for the nation and for the game of football in Australia. Making the last 16 for me wasn’t enough, I wanted more. But that’s just me. I know a lot of other people might be happy with it but that’s the way I am.”

Arnold threw his support behind Ryan after seeing his captain and goalkeeper dispossessed just meters from goal as Alvarez added the second in the 57th minute after Messi had given his team the lead 10 minutes before the interval with a trademark left-foot finish inside the area.

Housing price increases 6.8% in Tehran city



TEHRAN- Average housing price rose 6.8 percent in the capital Tehran during the eighth Iranian calendar month Aban (ended on November 21), compared to the previous month, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 467 million rials (about \$1,610) during the mentioned month.

As reported, the number of real estate deals stood at about 8,000 in the capital city in the eighth month of this year, up 47.8 percent and 9.6 percent compared to the previous month and the same month in the past year, respectively.

As previously reported by the Central Bank of Iran, the average housing price rose 16 percent in the capital Tehran during the last month of the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), compared to the same month in the preceding year.

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 351.2 million rials (about \$1,211) during the last month of the past year, up 6.2 percent from the previous month, and 16 percent from the same month of the preceding year.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past three years due to various internal and external factors.

Although, in early May, the chairman of Real Estate Agencies Union said, "This year is the year of lower housing prices; this condition

will continue in the country for the next two years, and we will see a continuous decrease in housing prices".

Mostafa Qoli Khosravi referred to a report released by the Central Bank of Iran in terms of housing price in the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (ended on April 20), and said: "The government is trying to compensate the housing shortage in the country with the National Housing Movement plan, and this plan is being prepared and implemented in several urban and rural areas".

He said that there is currently shortage of about 720,000 housing units in the country, adding: "Every year, dilapidated apartments are added to this number, therefore, the current government intends to compensate for the housing deficit by recognizing this shortage and implementation of National Housing Movement".

The market will react positively to the increase in supply, and the completion of the government plans including Mehr Housing and National Housing will control the uncontrolled growth of housing prices, he further predicted.

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in early February.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

TEDPIX gains 138 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 138 points to close at 1,417 million points on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.876 billion securities worth 32.118 trillion rials (about \$110.7 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 951 points, while the second market's index fell 2,349 points.

TEDPIX rose 7,000 points (0.5 percent) to 1,417 million points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index had risen 131,000 points (10.21 percent) to 1,414 million points in the Iranian calendar week ended on November 11.

As reported, it was the highest weekly rise during the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

After a long period of decline, the stock market transactions finally returned to the upward cycle from the last three weeks and under the influence of the decisions taken by the government and the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), and increased the hope of shareholders to invest again in this market and obtain a reasonable return from it.

As reported, TEDPIX has risen 99,638 points (7.61 percent) in the previous Iranian calendar month Aban (ended on November 21).

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 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.

Securities and Exchange Organization has unveiled a comprehensive support package to encourage activities in the capital market as shareholders were getting reluctant to invest in the market.

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

The comprehensive support package of the capital market, which was designed in late October and has been reviewed by the country's economic authorities, was put in effect since October 29.

from page 1 ▶ "In the Islamic Republic of Iran, cereal production recovered and is estimated at 20.8 million tons, an increase of 17.3 percent compared to 2021, but still slightly below the average," the FAO report read.

FAO estimates Iran's wheat production in the 2022 crop year to be 13 million tons, registering a significant growth of 25 percent compared to the previous year. Iran produced 10.4 million tons of wheat last year.

Rice production also reached 3.5 million tons in the current year, 20 percent more than the 2.9 million tons in the previous crop year.

The significant growth of Iran's cereal production comes as, according to FAO's estimates, world cereal production this year faced a two percent drop

Iran's cereal production rises 17.3% in current crop year: FAO



compared to the previous year and reached 2.756 billion tons.

FAO has estimated Iran's total cereal stocks at 12.7 million tons at the end of 2022. According to FAO's expectations, Iran's grain stocks will grow by 23 percent this year compared to the previous year.

Back in May, FAO released a report in which Iran was ranked 43rd in the world in terms of food imports despite being the 17th most populous country in the world.

The UN entity's statistics show that industrialized countries were the largest importers of food products in the world.

According to the organization, Iran currently stands among the world's top producers of agricultural products.

Exports of paint, resin up 17% in 8 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - As announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported 7,291 tons of paint and resin worth \$25.769 million during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21) to register a 17 percent growth year on year.

Morteza Emadi said the export of the mentioned products has also increased 9.5 percent in terms of weight, IRIB reported.

Iraq, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan, Armenia, and Turkmenistan were the major export destinations of Iranian paint and resin in the mentioned eight months, according to Emadi.

Iran also imported 2,858 tons worth \$18.421 million of the said products in the mentioned eight months.

The imports declined three percent in terms



of value and increased 21 percent in terms of weight compared to the figures for the previous year's same eight months, the official said.

United Arab Emirates (UAE), South Korea, China, and Germany were the major exporters of paint and resin to Iran in the mentioned

period.

Iran's capital Tehran recently hosted the country's biggest exhibition in the paint and coating industry.

The 22nd edition of Iran's International Paint, Resin, Coatings, Composites, and Plating Industries Fair (IPCC 2022) was held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from November 30 to December 3.

During this four-day event, the latest products and services of more than 260 domestic and foreign companies active in the field of paint and related industries were presented.

Chemical industry companies, paint, adhesive, and resin manufacturers, as well as companies active in the electroplating industry, participated in the IPCC 2022.

Mashhad to host conference on opportunities for trade with Tajikistan on Dec. 21

TEHRAN- A conference on opportunities for trade with Tajikistan and making investment in that country will be held in Mashhad on December 21, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) announced.

To be organized by Iran-Tajikistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, the event will be held concurrent with the presence of a Tajik trade delegation in Iran.

B2B meetings will be held between the two sides' businessmen and traders in the fields of food industries, constructional materials, and technical-engineering services on the sidelines of the conference.

Back in late June, Iran and Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Tehran to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and industry.

The MOU was signed at the end of a meeting between the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Payman-Pak and Tajikistan's Principal Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies Bakhtiyor Sharifi.

Under the framework of the mentioned MOU, the two sides

have agreed to strengthen and diversify industrial, mining, and trade cooperation in accordance with their national laws and international obligations.

Also, the two sides agreed on exchanging specialized trade and marketing delegations, especially during specialized exhibitions.

Also on May 30, Iranian and Tajik private sectors inked an MOU in Tehran on bilateral cooperation.

The MOU was signed by Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, the ICCIMA head, and Jumakhonzoda Jamshid Jurakhon, the chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan (CCI RT), in the presence of the two countries' presidents.

The MOU was among the 17 documents of cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, transportation, investment, new technologies, environment, sports, energy, judiciary, education and research, and tourism signed in the presence of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon.

Addressing a press conference held after signing the mentioned MOUs, President Raisi said, "Today's meetings paved the way for

good decisions for relations between the two countries".

"We have good relations with Tajikistan for various reasons, including neighborliness, common culture, religion, language and civilization," he stated.

Pointing out that good steps have been taken in other areas, especially the implementation of the memorandums signed in Dushanbe, Raisi said, "The two countries have a serious determination and will to develop political, economic, trade, cultural and interaction in the fields of energy, tourism, water and natural resources and science and technology."

According to Raisi, improving the level of bilateral relations can lead to the strengthening of regional and international interactions.

"The development of relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries can be promising for the two nations and interests of the two countries," the Iranian president stated.

For his part, Tajik President Rahmon expressed satisfaction with his visit to the ancient land of Iran.

He described the meeting and the talks in Tehran as a contin-

uation of the ongoing bilateral efforts to expand relations in line with the interests of the two countries.

The official said, "Today, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and respect, we had fruitful discussions and discussed the most important topics for relations between Tajikistan and Iran."

Referring to the long-term cooperation document between the two countries which is set to end on 2030, Rahmon noted, "During today's visit, good agreements were signed in various economic and trade fields, as well as the activities of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Council and the Joint Investment Committee."

"I am confident that these agreements will give new momentum to the two countries' cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, investment and culture," he underlined.

Concluding his remarks, Rahmon said, "Bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation between the two countries within the framework of regional and international organizations can help address common concerns of the two countries in these areas."

Commodities worth nearly \$559m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,315,255 million tons of commodities worth nearly \$559 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.899 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$336 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1,197,546 tons of cement, 284,000 tons of iron ore, 277,303 tons of steel, 106,500 tons of sponge iron, 25,350 tons of zinc, 5,975 tons of aluminum, 4,110 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of cast iron, 150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 134 kg of gold bars and 2,118 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 393,337 tons of commodities worth more than \$219 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 90,443 tons of polymeric products, 123,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 42,500 tons of lube cut, 36,636 tons of chemicals, 7,340 tons of sulfur, 270 tons of argon, 4,668 tons of base oil, 200 tons of insulation and 86,579 tons of bitumen.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 22,642 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 10,206,807 tons of commodities worth over \$2.5 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Aban (ended on November 21).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1.767 million tons of commodities valued at nearly \$963 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 452,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 509,633 tons of bitumen, 394,914 tons of polymeric products, 203,100 tons of lube cut, 139,208 tons of chemicals, 36,575 tons of sulfur, 26,432 tons of oil and 1,100 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of more than 8.322 million tons of commodities worth over \$1.5 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 5,778,000 tons of cement, 1,462,000 tons of steel, 657,000 tons of iron ore, 338,500 tons of sponge iron, 35,610 tons of aluminum, 4,740 tons of zinc, 41,892 tons of copper, 1,000 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 66 tons of precious metals concentrate and 40 kg of gold

bars.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded 2,416 vehicles on its automobiles trading floor.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 71,779 tons of 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).

Ukraine sent foreign volunteers “unprepared on reckless missions”: report

From page 1 ▶ One was an investigation by The Kyiv Independent which revealed alleged misconduct of the leadership of the International Legion, including “light weapons misappropriation and physical threats toward foreign soldiers and volunteers while the leadership of the intelligence-run wing of the International Legion is allegedly implicated in various violations.”

These violations include abuse, theft, sending soldiers unprepared on reckless missions, and the foreign legion's complaints of military operations as The Insider says being conducted “like in the old days.”

The Kyiv Independent reported on how one of the foreign legion's commanders is accused of abusing power by ordering soldiers to loot shops, threatening soldiers with a gun, and sexually harassing the legion's female medics.

The International Legion, soldiers say, consists of two wings. Ukraine's Ground Forces oversee one. The Defense Ministry's Directorate for Intelligence, known under its Ukrainian acronym GUR, coordinates the other.

The investigation published by The Kyiv Independent in August found that some commanders in the foreign legions overseen by Ukrainian Intelligence were sending men on “suicide missions”.

The Insider has reported on the reasons behind the departure of the volunteer corps from the warzone.

According to the news outlet, one American soldier Bryan Young, a 51-year-old army veteran from California faced a scary new reality in Ukraine.

He had already served as a U.S. infantryman between November 1990 and April 2003, before being forced to retire because of an injury.

Young was a part of the 517th battalion of the Ivan Bohun Brigade, which was overseen by the GUR Legion.

Kacper Rekawek, a research fellow for the Center for Research on Extremism at the University of Oslo, also told Insider “The GUR part of the legion is led by Ukrainian officers and usually includes veterans or people who have experience on the battlefield.”



Rekawek added that soldiers in this section are often highly skilled and deployed in smaller groups that are then deployed to the frontlines.

Despite that, the legion has been reported to be anything but professional. In June, Young texted his partner: “It has been a mess where I am, most of the foreign volunteers left. There are only a few of us left.”

He died four months after the war started following an exchange of fire with Russian troops. During a brief pause in the firing, Young, and two other soldiers — Emile-Antoine Roy Sirous from Canada and Edvard Selander Patrignani from Sweden — rushed to his side to evacuate him before they too were killed.

Another American soldier in the same unit told Insider that their mission was a disaster from the start, adding that the group had narrowly escaped death multiple times in the days before.

“When we were told to go out again, in my mind I knew someone was going to die,” he said.

But Young's partner says his death was preventable.

Messages that were sent to her from soldiers in Young's unit — seen by Insider — reveal that many thought their commander, Ruslan Miroshnichenko, was careless, and often drunk.

“No one trusts Ruslan [Miroshnichenko], he is a lying piece of sh#t,” one soldier told his partner in a text message seen by Insider. “Ruslan has pissed off everyone in the company.”

They also said that Miroshnichenko was not only a heavy drinker of alcohol but also

run-ins with the law.

In Poland, Kapuscinski is wanted for fraud and faces up to eight years in prison. According to Polish Gazeta Wyborcza, he has previously served time behind bars.

In a video obtained by the Kyiv Independent, some foreigners can be heard questioning the legality of their commander's orders.

Young's partner is not the only person who has raised questions over the way foreign fighters have been treated in Ukraine, and the dangers they were put in, even while knowing the risks.

According to The Military Times, Young wasn't the last American to die fighting in Ukraine. On November 8, Trent Davis, a 21-year-old US Army veteran from Kansas, was killed on his first mission with the legion, near the southern city of Kherson.

Davis was at least the tenth American to die fighting in the conflict, the outlet reported.

Meanwhile, the Insider also spoke to two Germans who had gone to Ukraine to volunteer to fight and ended up with a different outfit.

They described arriving at barracks that were barren and disorganized and an overall sense of chaos.

“Katastrophe,” Tobias, one of the men, told Insider. “There's no organization, no organized training. Everyone just wants to kill the Russians.” Neither had any military experience, unlike people like Young.

One foreign volunteer told Insider “It is impossible [to stay safe]. Our commander will get us killed here,” the soldier added.

The legality of Western countries allowing their citizens to fight in a warzone has come under scrutiny.

The State Department's website says U.S. citizens are not barred from serving in another country's military.

However, if U.S. citizens had traveled to fight Daesh terrorists in Iraq or the Israeli occupation in Palestine there is no question that they would be facing a lengthy prison sentence back home.

In the U.S., the UK, and elsewhere, those who returned after fighting Daesh are now in jail.

WORLD HEADLINES

Trump demands America rip up the Constitution, make him president

On Saturday, the former U.S. president called for the termination of the Constitution in order to overturn the 2020 election results. In Trump's latest rant on Truth Social, he referred to himself wrongly as the “rightful winner” and called for his installation as leader of the free world.

“Do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution,” Trump wrote in a post on the social network Truth Social. He further alleged that “Big Tech” was working closely with Democrats. “Our great ‘Founders’ did not want, and would not condone False & Fraudulent Elections!”

Trump's public appeal to end American democracy followed Elon Musk's release of internal Twitter files on Friday evening, which detailed already publicly-known information about the company's deliberation surrounding the New York Post's publication of files from Hunter Biden shortly before the 2020 election.

The push-back to Trump's post was swift on Saturday. White House Deputy Secretary Andrew Bates released a statement condemning Trump's remarks. “The American Constitution is a sacrosanct document that for over 200 years has guaranteed that freedom and the rule of law prevail in our great country,” Bates said. “The Constitution brings the American people together — regardless of party — and elected leaders swear to uphold it.”

“It's the ultimate monument to all of the Americans who have given their lives to defeat self-serving despots that abused their power and trampled on fundamental rights,” he continued. “Attacking the Constitution and all it stands for is anathema to the soul of our nation and should be universally condemned. You cannot only love America when you win.”

Italian premier wants to increase country's influence in Mediterranean

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Saturday that her government is steadfastly committed to enhancing its influence in the Mediterranean.

“We understand that building a shared space of wealth is the only way to effectively address pressing issues like climate change, food security, and health,” she said at the 8th MED Mediterranean Dialogue Forum in Rome, hosted by the Foreign Ministry and the Institute for International Political Studies.

Meloni said there should be “virtuous collaboration” between the European Union and African nations, adding that EU countries will not be prosperous unless their African neighbors are prosperous.

“As Italy, we have been saying for a while, we cannot handle this migration flow alone, it is at an unacceptable level. Since the beginning of 2022, 94,000 unauthorized migrants have entered Italy,” said Meloni.

Italy can act as a conduit for energy between the Mediterranean and Europe thanks to its geographic location, infrastructure, spirit of cooperation, and the support of its businesses, she added.

Israeli warplanes attack Gaza as EU calls for ‘accountability’

Israeli warplanes have attacked sites in the Gaza Strip after a rocket landed in southern Israel and as tensions reach a boiling point in the

occupied West Bank, where 10 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since last week.

The Israeli military said the air raids in the early hours of Sunday targeted a weapons manufacturing facility and an underground tunnel belonging to Hamas, according to the Associated Press news agency.

“The strike overnight continues the progress to impede the force build-up”, the Israeli army said in reference to Hamas, AP reported.

No group has claimed responsibility for the rocket, reportedly the first fired in a month, which the Israeli military said landed in an open area near Israel's separation fence on Saturday evening without causing casualties or damage to property.

The air attack on Gaza follows outrage over the shooting at point-blank range of a young Palestinian man, Ammar Mufleh, 23, by an Israeli soldier in broad daylight on Friday, which was captured on video. The harrowing footage has sparked widespread anger among Palestinians and calls on social media to escalate resistance against the Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian foreign ministry condemned the shooting of Mufleh as tantamount to execution, and Palestinian activists and social media users are using the hashtag “Huwara Execution” in Arabic, calling for a response to crimes by Israeli forces.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, released a statement saying he was “greatly concerned about the increasing level of violence in the occupied West Bank.”

“During the last days alone, 10 Palestinians have been killed by ISF (Israeli Security Forces). Yesterday's tragic killing of a Palestinian man, Ammar Mifleh, by a member of the ISF (Israeli Security Forces) was the latest example,” Borrell said.

“Such unacceptable facts must be investigated and there must be full accountability. Under international law, lethal force is only justified in situations in which there exists a serious and imminent threat to life,” he said.

At least 207 Palestinians killed in the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East al-Quds so far this year.

Herzog lands in Bahrain for 1st state visit by Israeli president

President Isaac Herzog arrived in Bahrain on Sunday, kicking off a two-day visit to Israel's allies in the Persian Gulf region by meeting Bahrain's king and foreign minister.

The trip is the first by an Israeli president to the island kingdom and will be followed by a visit to the United Arab Emirates — both of which established diplomatic relations with Israel in 2020.

Ahead of his departure, Herzog said the trip was “predominantly a message of peace in the region.”

“Another historic step in the relationship between Israel and Arab states that signed the Abraham Accords, with the hope that more and more countries will be able to join the circle of peace with the State of Israel,” Herzog said in English.

Upon landing in Manama, Herzog and his wife Michal were welcomed by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani and Bahrain's envoy to Israel, Khaled Yousif Al-Jalahma.

Russian, Azerbaijani top diplomats to meet in Moscow

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will hold talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov in Moscow today on normalizing relations between Baku and Yerevan, according to a statement published by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday.

“It is planned to discuss the state and prospects of bilateral cooperation as well as exchange opinions on the most pertinent aspects of the regional and international agenda, including the issues of normalizing the Azerbaijani-Armenian relations,” the diplomatic agency specified.

The mistake of Ursula von der Leyen, EU Commissioner

By Dmitry Babich

The horror is that mediocrity and demagoguery have become a system in modern Germany

Germany has become the world champion of political bloopers in recent days. The biggest was today: the European Commission had to remove an entire chunk of a speech by its chairman, the German Ursula von der Leyen. While scolding Russia, this protégé of former Chancellor Merkel gave away a terrible secret. It turns out that the state of Ukraine, “according to estimates to date, has lost more than 20,000 civilians and 100,000 military personnel”. Very quickly these words disappeared from the European Commission's website. It is most likely true. And in the hearts of Russians, this truth resonates with pain: we regret the deaths of most of these people — with the exception of those who deliberately, “out of spite”, killed our military and residents of Donbas.

But while in Russia von der Leyen's statement caused horror and regret, in the office of Kiev's Kim Jong-se (as President Zelensky is called by Ukrainian journalists offended by him) Europe's leading German decided to censor her. A spokesman named Sergei Nikiforov responded by saying that von der Leyen should not have “voiced data on Ukrainian army losses”. Nikiforov did not refute the frightening figure of 100,000 dead Ukrainian servicemen. He is simply unhappy that the failed result of all recent Ukrainian “counterattacks” was voiced: one-tenth of a million men deceived or forcibly mobilized by the Kiev regime went to the other side or were maimed (it turns out that these 100 thousand include the wounded who were put



out of action).

Moreover, this failure was announced foolishly! The representative of the European Commission informed about the aims of Ursula von der Leyen. She, it turns out, simply wanted to justify the act of stealing from Russia by the loss of life. “We have blocked 300 billion euros of reserves of the Russian Central Bank and 19 billion euros of private funds of Russian oligarchs. In the short term, we could create a structure with our partners to manage these funds, invest them, and then use the proceeds for Ukraine,” von der Leyen said in her speech.

Mrs von der Leyen has long been regarded in European circles as an alternatively gifted woman, and the German magazine Spiegel has run several articles on her demagoguery and mediocrity for her tricks at the head of the Bundeswehr. Furthermore the European Public Prosecutor's Office has opened an investigation into the EU's coronavirus vaccine purchases, an announcement that will refocus attention on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's role in the matter.

But the horror is not that the “crazy aunt” (in former Russian President Dmitry

Medvedev's apt definition) turned out to be talentless. The horror is that mediocrity and demagoguery have become a system in modern Germany. Demagoguery replaces work. The once formidable German football team loses to the Japanese in Qatar, but that is OK: the important thing is that the German players have annoyed all Qataris with their idiotic “actions in support” of the Qatari homosexuals.

The Swiss political analyst Pascal Najadi, who has been commenting on politics in German-speaking countries for years for the Russian press, pointed out to me that the German government works according to the same scheme. “Here's how it works. Olaf Scholz's cabinet has blighted relations with Russia and left Germany without gas this winter, but that's okay: the important thing is for him that he was seen trying to weaken the Russian Federation. “And we will get our gas from Qatar.” “It is not mentioned that Qatari gas can never replace Nordstream gas volumes and will go to Germany not earlier than 2026, which is still a long way off.” Najadi says.

Almost the only competent person in the German political establishment is Dr. Alice Weidel, the female leader of the Alternative for Germany party. She opposed the anti-Russian sanctions and called the current government “the worst in the history of Germany”. For this, she has been harassed and demonised. But this, Najadi notes, will only help her stellar career. The German-language analyst recalled a quote from former German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer: “First make yourself unpopular, then you will be taken seriously.”

Iranian tourism minister attends Forum of Ancient Civilizations



TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami has taken part in the 6th Forum of Ancient Civilizations inaugurated in Baghdad on Sunday.

Asked whether the forum will be able to be a ground for boosting Iran-Egypt cultural ties, the official termed Egypt as an ancient and valuable civilization, Mehr reported.

The minister expressed hope that constructive talks, as the participating states deserve, would be witnessed at the event.

Representatives from Greece, China, Egypt, Italy, Peru, Bolivia, Armenia, and Mexico are among the participants.

According to organizers, dialogues and cultures are exchanged between the member states of the forum, at the governmental level, to capitalize on the importance of civilized and cultural communication for the economic and social development of the participating countries.

The Ancient Civilizations Forum seeks to enhance international exchanges; improve

the multilateral cooperation mechanism; protect the diversity of cultural heritage and world culture; uphold the legacy and progress of civilization and inspire the vitality of the wisdom of ancient civilization to provide a solution to solve the problem in the current era.

The term "civilization" basically refers to the stage of development at which people can coexist peacefully in groups. The term "ancient civilization" specifically refers to the earliest settled and secure communities that served as the nucleus for later states, nations, and empires.

The development of writing around 3100 BC marked the beginning of the arc of ancient history, which lasted for more than 35 centuries. Writing has made it possible to preserve a historical record, even though mankind existed before the written word.

Archaeologists' work is the main source of information about ancient peoples, in addition to written accounts and carved inscriptions. In the last 200 years, the majority of significant archaeological finds have been made.

Platform to be provided for new tourism ideas

TEHRAN- There is a need for a platform in the tourism field to support new ideas, their implementation as well as their dissemination, the deputy tourism minister has said.

To achieve this plan and implement new ideas, as well as utilize each other's experiences in the tourism sector, cohesion among the tourism-related organizations in different provinces across the country is essential, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian explained on Monday.

For the tourism sector to thrive, provinces must work together and think jointly, he added.

Currently, a wide range of innovations are taking place in the provinces, intending to attract diverse audiences, but they are not promoted properly and adequate means must be in place for them to be shown, the official noted.

Although some provinces have achieved success in establishing inter-institutional interaction, more appropriate infrastructure should be provided for them, he mentioned.

The private sector also needs to be encouraged and supported for investing in the tourism sector, he stated.

Back in July, the official announced that



more than 700 tourism events were held across Iran during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21).

"710 tourism events in the forms of festivals, exhibitions, and different rituals have been held in various provinces during the first four months of the year," he said.

That number shows over a two-fold increase in comparison to the same period last year, the official added.

Festivals on agritourism, indigenous rituals, gastronomy, and cooking - on local, regional, and national scales - constituted the lion's share of the tourism events this year, Shalbafian said.

UNESCO sites at a glance



Agra Fort

Near the gardens of the Taj Mahal stands the important 16th-century Mughal monument known as the Red Fort of Agra.

This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within lengthy enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful

mosques.

Walking through courtyard after courtyard of this palatial red-sandstone and marble fortress, your amazement grows as the scale of what was built here begins to sink in.

Construction along the bank of the Yamuna River was begun by Emperor Akbar in 1565 on the site of an earlier fort. Further additions were made, particularly by his grandson Shah Jahan, using his favorite building material - white marble. The fort was built primarily as a military structure, but Shah Jahan transformed it into a palace, and later it became his gilded prison for eight years after his son Aurangzeb seized power in 1658.

The ear-shaped fort's colossal double walls rise more than 20m and measure 2.5km in circumference.

From Page 1 ▶ "The Islamic Republic of Iran officially registered its Pahlevani and Zoorkhanei ritual in 2010 on UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage List," he said.

"There are different types of Pahlevani wrestling in Iran, for instance: Gile-Mardi wrestling... Due to the limitations of UNESCO in allocating quotas for each country, it is appropriate to register all these cases in a file with a comprehensive title, which, thank God, Iran has done this important step 12 years ago," the official explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pourali emphasized that "Azerbaijan's case is national." According to UNESCO directions, any country may register its intangible cultural elements and this does not conflict with (similar) elements registered by other countries, he added.

The official emphasized that the intangible heritage is alive and belongs to all the people who practice it. "Inscribing an element on the Intangible World Heritage list does not create ownership for any country."

"Pahlevani wrestling and Zoorkhanei rituals, whose international federation is based in Tehran, are emerging in many countries. It is a source of pride that an Iranian cultural element is alive in other lands. For example, Uzbekistan can do this in the coming years," the official said.

"Therefore, Azerbaijan will



Source of inspiration: Iran's Pahlevani and Zoorkhanei rituals

not become the owner of that element by registering its martial culture. From UNESCO's point of view, proving that an element was first created in which country and later transferred to another country does not have any rights or privileges for the country of origin," the official said.

"Because the intangible heritage moves to every part of the world by its supporters and performers. This way, all countries have the chance to register intangible heritage that is alive in their lands."

Pourali said countries registered their intangible

heritage both independently and jointly. "However, UNESCO encourages countries to compile a common file. But there is no obligation that, for example, Azerbaijan has to join Iran's case."

According to the UN cultural body, Pahlevani is an Iranian martial art that combines elements of Islam, Gnosticism, and ancient Persian beliefs. It describes a ritual collection of gymnastic and callisthenic movements performed by ten to twenty men, each wielding instruments symbolizing ancient weapons.

The ritual is held in a Zoorkhane,

a revered dome-shaped building with seats for spectators and an octagonal, submerged arena. The Morshed (master) who leads the Pahlevani ritual performs epic and Gnostic poems and beats out time on a Zarb goblet drum. The poems he recites transmit ethical and social teachings and constitute part of Zoorkhanei literature.

Participants in the Pahlevani ritual may be drawn from any social strata or religious background, and each group has strong ties to its local community, working to assist those in need.

During training, students are instructed in chivalric and ethical values under the supervision of a Pishkesvat (champion). Those who master individual skills and arts, observe religious principles, and go through the ethical and moral stages of Gnosticism can attain the pre-eminent rank of Pahlevani (hero), signifying rank and authority within the community.

As mentioned by UNESCO, Pehlevanliq culture in Azerbaijan includes games and sports, such as wrestling and individual performances. Pehlevans use specific tools that resemble medieval weapons (such as swords, shields, and bows), but are heavier (originally, to allow Pehlevans to handle real weapons easily).

Some 500 Zoorkhanes exist right now in Iran, each with practitioners, founders, and senior athletes.

Pakdasht tourism to reap benefits from rich flora

TEHRAN - Pakdasht county in the southeast of the Iranian capital is planned to turn into a flower and plants tourism area, the county's tourism chief has said.

One of the most important agricultural hubs in Tehran province, Pakdasht cultivates more than 17,000 hectares, of which 1,500 are greenhouses, Asadollah Tajik explained on Sunday.

There are 1.2 billion cut flowers produced in greenhouses in the county each year, which are exported to different countries, the official added.

Turning into a tourism area could boost agritourism in the region as well as generate job opportunities and create sustainable income for the locals, he mentioned.

Back in September, Tehran's tourism chief Parham Janfeshan said that plans are underway to promote agritourism in Pakdasht county.

Pakdasht has high potential to attract nature lovers and sightseers as it embraces numerous gardens and flowerbeds, he added.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with locals



in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Agritourism and nature-the travel industry ventures could incorporate outside diversion (fishing, hunting, untamed life review, horseback riding), instructive encounters (cannery visits, cooking classes, or tea or espresso tasting), amusement (gather celebrations or animal dwelling place moves), friendliness administrations (ranch stays, directed visits, or supplier administrations), and on-ranch direct deals (u-pick activities or side of the road stands).

Historical qalamkari fabrics restored in Tehran palace

TEHRAN -Some 115 pieces of qalamkari fabrics, which are being kept in the treasure troves of the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran, have recently been restored, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

Documentation, preparation of information certificates, dust removal, acidity measurement, and labeling were all part of the project, Afarin Emami explained on Sunday.

Furthermore, some tears were sewed, a protective cover was created, and the fabrics were placed in stainless tubes that cannot be affected by humidity and temperature, she added.

Qalamkari or kalamkari is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile produced in Isfahan using wooden or metallic cloths.

The word qalamkari is derived from a Persian word where 'qalam' means pen and 'kari' refers to craftsmanship.

This art involves 23 tedious steps of dyeing, bleaching, hand painting, block printing, starching, cleaning, and more. Motifs drawn in qalamkari include flowers, peacocks and paisleys.

The 3000-year-old art uses earthy colors like indigo, mustard, rust, black, and green. Natural dyes used to paint colors in qalamkari art are extracted from natural sources with no use of chemicals or artificial matter.

For instance, craftsmen extract black color by blending jaggery, water, and iron fillings which they essentially use for outlining the sketches. While mustard or yellow is derived by boiling pomegranate peels, red hues are created from the bark of madder or algerin. Likewise, blue is obtained from indigo, and green is derived by mixing yellow and blue together.

UNESCO says that Golestan Palace exemplifies the architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar

era, including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian art.

The royal complex was once the official residence of the Qajar monarchs who ruled the country between 1789 and 1925. It displays a remarkable mixture of ancient Persian and contemporary European architectural styles, which characterized much of Iranian art in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Visitors can simply spend half a day admiring several key structures that make up the palace, including lots of spectacular halls, chambers, museums, and gardens. All of them were built during the rule of the Qajar kings.

The stunning Karim Khani nook, which was the former residence of the founder of the Zand dynasty (1751 to 1779), and the brilliant Mirror Hall, which was used for royal weddings and coronations, are amongst the

must-see premises of the complex.

Also, the highlights include Shams-ol Emareh ("the Edifice of the Sun"), a palace that offered a panoramic view of the city for the monarchs, and Brilliant Hall, which is known for its incredible display of mirror work.

Visitors may likely take two or three hours to thoroughly explore the palace complex. One can relax by the gorgeous pond in the main garden after all the walking around. Next to the palace lies the bustling Grand Bazaar of Tehran, which is a top place to get a glimpse of local life.

Some visitors to the bazaar refer to it as "a city within a city" because it also includes several mosques, guesthouses, banks, and once-thriving caravansaries. While most of its covered structures and marketplaces are associated with the 19th century onwards, the history of trade in the bazaar is rooted much deeper in time.

Tourism sector helps create 700 jobs in Bushehr

TEHRAN - The tourism sector in the southwestern Bushehr province has generated some 700 job opportunities since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (starts on March 21), the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Most jobs are generated by hotels, hotel apartments, traditional restaurants, and tourist complexes, Vahid Jamali explained on Sunday.

Tourism infrastructure development along with a suitable environment for attracting

tourists are two effective factors that contribute to employment growth, the official added.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr Province is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments

of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar-era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

National system of "healthy fertility" unveiled

TEHRAN – The national healthy fertility system, which is one of the legal duties of the Family and Youth Protection Law, was unveiled by Health Minister Bahram Einollahi during a meeting on Saturday.

This system was launched in order to provide smart healthcare services needed by pregnant women, he stated, expressing hope to take a step in the direction of the youth population growth.

This system was launched in order to provide smart healthcare services needed by pregnant women.

Our main priority in the Ministry of Health, as well as this system, is to protect the health of the mother and the fetus, and we hope that in the next steps, the system will be complete and comprehensive, he further said.

Einollahi went on to note that the advantages of this system include an integrated electronic prescription panel, digital signa-



ture capability, viewing electronic health records for doctors, connecting laboratories to electronic health records, the possibility of monitoring pregnancy status from beginning to end, creating an infertility bank and an infrastructure for family doctors.

He also highlighted that one of the main threats to the Islamic Republic is the aging population and it is due to the wrong policies of the past decades in the country; however, the population growth rate is more than 4 percent, we are not in a good situation at the moment.

Population growth initially requires cultural work in society because if all the infrastructure and hardware are created but culture is not promoted, no success will be achieved, he stated.

Currently, 28 infertility treatment center projects, 13 maternity units with 150 beds, and 16 maternity facility projects are under construction, he said, adding, pregnant mothers are now receiving services completely free of charge and many of the services are covered by insurance.

Challenges facing Iranian population growth

Productive and young manpower is a factor in the economic and social growth of countries. Certainly, every society needs a young population to walk the path of development.

The first clause of the general population policies states that the development, dynamism, maturity, and youth population of a nation depend on the increase in the fertility rate and population growth.

Iran is experiencing below-replacement fertility — lower than 2.1 children per woman — which indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.

According to the population and housing census, the average population growth has decreased in recent years, and this declining trend is a serious warning.

The country's elderly population is projected to nearly double over the next 20 years, while this trend will occur in other countries over the next 100 years.

The aging population and its negative effects will penetrate the political, economic, and security position of the country in the region and the world.

Persian traditional medicine festival slated for January 2023

TEHRAN – The 3rd Persian Medicine Festival will be held in Tehran on January 24, 2023.

The event aims to identify and support top scientists and innovators, as well as create a platform for greater productivity from the research achievements, expansion of knowledge-based markets, and multilateral interaction between educational, research, and therapeutic centers of Iranian medicine, traditional pharmacy, and history of medicine, the first edition of which was held in 2019.

The third Persian Medicine Festival slogan is "Iranian medicine; The path of progress and scientific innovation", due to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's designation of 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.

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

It is one of the most ancient forms of tradi-

tional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

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

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

The event aims at identifying and supporting top scientists and innovators, as well as creating a platform for greater productivity.



The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 12 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States it is 2.5 kilograms.

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

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

Iran's top scientific rank among Islamic countries

From page 1 ▶ Turkey and Saudi Arabia are ranked second and third in terms of the three aforementioned indexes, he said.

He further expressed hope to achieve the first rank in science and technology among Islamic countries, based on the Iran Vision 2026.

In the latest report of the Hirsch Index released by Web of Science, the

University of Tehran University, with a score of 189, and the Sharif University of Technology, with a score of 179, is among the top universities.

Also, according to the 2022 list of Highly Cited Researchers revealed by Clarivate, 12 Iranian researchers are among the most cited researchers.

In November, the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database listed 841

Iranian researchers among the top one percent of most cited researchers in the world.

The highest number of researchers were included in the engineering category amounting to 229 scientists, followed by clinical medicine with 140, and the multi-disciplinary category with 150 people.

On October 26, Stanford University listed 1,870 Iranian researchers among



the top 2 percent of the most-cited scientists in the world, which has grown

significantly compared to past years.

Despite U.S. sanctions, the international activities of Iranian scientists have increased year by year, so that more than 35 percent of Iranian articles in Scopus have been multi-national projects, the deputy science minister, Peyman Salehi, has said.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among na-

tions to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships.

In 2021, Iranian scientists published more than 77,000 scientific articles in the Scopus database, ranking 15th worldwide.

The country also ranked 15th and 16th in the world in terms of scientific references.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average'

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

"The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C," ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern, he said, adding, the industries operating in the province must reduce their dependency on water, otherwise water scarcity might worsen in the region.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

دبیر سیاست محیط‌زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران یا تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روپرو شده است. محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش‌های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: کشورمان با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روپرو شده است، به طوری که ایستگاه هومند آسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلسیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلسیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم. وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد. این مسئول تصریح کرد: باید میزان وابستگی صنایع در یزد نسبت به آب کاهش پیدا کند چرا که در غیر این صورت می‌تواند شتاب خشک‌سالی‌ها را افزایش دهد.

Turan hosting 175 endangered Persian zebras

TEHRAN – Some 175 endangered Persian zebras have so far been counted in Turan National Park, northcentral Semnan province, according to the latest census.

The Persian onager, also called the Persian zebra, is a subspecies of onager native to Iran. It is listed as 'Endangered', with no more than 1,000 individuals left in the wild and only 30 individuals living within North American institutions.

Persian onagers are known to inhabit mountain steppes, semidesert, or desert plains. They are usually found in desert steppes. Their largest population is found in Khar Turan National Park.

Semnan province, as the capital of the country's wildlife mammals' diversity, succeeded in breeding the Persian onager over the past years, head of the provincial department of environment Bahram-Ali Zaheri said.

Garmsar National Park is the habitat of 28 zebras living in captivity that were transferred from Turan and Khabr National Park in Kerman province, he explained.

Pointing out that zebras have a weak reproduction ability and normally one foal is left out of every three foals of this species, he stated that the probability of survival of the male zebra foal is weak, because the male zebra does not accept the male foal and kills it, and this factor causes the population of zebras to decrease.

The long gestation period and the lack of twins are among the other effective factors in reducing

the population of Persian onagers, he further said.

Currently, poaching for meat and hides, competition with livestock, and drought are the greatest threats to this species. Asiatic zebras are highly and legally protected; hunting them is forbidden.

Endangered Species

According to the IUCN, at least 40 percent of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction across the world.

Currently, more than 41 percent of amphibians, 26 percent of mammals, 21 percent of reptiles, and 13 percent of birds are threatened. In the latest statistics, the number of endangered species in the country is 75 vertebrate species (18 species of mammals, 29 species of birds, 4 species of amphibians, and 16 species of reptiles) on the IUCN Red List.

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to the alarming degradation of ecosystems, the deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 10

Over 425,000 waterfowl of at least 53 species were recorded in the Orooniyeh basin during an aerial survey on 29-31 August 1973. These included 146,000 unidentified small shorebirds (probably mostly *Calidris minuta* and *C. ferruginea*) on the mudflats around the lake, along with 21,000 *Anas querquedula* and 13,000 *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

The lake appears to be an important moulting area for common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (with up to 35,000 in August), and in mild winters it may support large numbers of wintering waterfowl.

The islands in Lake Orooniyeh are the only known breeding site in Iran for lanner (*Falco biarmicus*) in Iran (at least five pairs), and also provide nesting sites for at least ten pairs of *Neophron percnopterus*.

Falco cherrug and *Falco peregrinus* have been recorded during the summer months and may breed; *Gyps fulvus* and *Aegypius monachus* are regular visitors from the sur-

rounding hills; and *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Falco columbarius* occur in winter.

The great bustard *Otis tarda* was a regular visitor to the plains around the lake in the 1970s, and there is still a population of about 25 Great Bustards frequenting the area, and breed there (at least 4 pairs).

Wild sheep (*Ovis ammon*) of the western race were introduced on Kabudan Island in the 19th century, while Mesopotamian Fallow deer (*Dama dama mesopotamica*) were introduced on Ashk Island in the 1970s.

The sheep population peaked at over 4,000 in 1971/1972, but then crashed to only 1,150 in 1973/1974. Leopard *Panthera pardus* was introduced onto Kabudan in about 1970 in an attempt to control Wild Sheep numbers.

Although the leopard s are known to have bred on the island, they are believed to have died out towards the end of that decade.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON DECEMBER 4

New cases	56
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,559,855
Total deaths	144,640
New hospitalized patients	38
Patients in critical condition	73
Total recovered patients	7,335,301
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,593,636
Doses of vaccine injected	155,074,802



Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:55 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:30 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:00 (tomorrow)

Mohammad Ghaffari: Kamalolmolk

Part 2

In 1898, one and a half years after Nasser ad-Din Shah's demise, Kamalolmolk set off for Europe through Russia by way of Qazvin and the port of Anzali, residing first at Vienna and later at Florence and Paris.

In retrospect, he admitted that he had chosen to go to Europe because of his uneasy relations with the new sovereign. He stayed in Europe for three years, mostly in Florence and Paris.

Return from Europe: In 1900, when Mozaffar ad-Din Shah was in Paris, Kamalolmolk showed the paintings he had copied from the works of Titian and Rembrandt to the sovereign.

His work won the shah's admiration, and the monarch gave him 500 tumans as a reward. He was then commissioned to paint the scenic views around the hotel where the king was staying. Having completed these paintings, Kamalolmolk returned to Iran in 1901.

In 1902, the newspaper Sharafat published an enthusiastic biographical account of Kamalolmolk (with his portrait drawn by Mosavver al-Molk), announcing the return of the painter from Europe, his receiving the Lion and Sun decoration, first-class, with the complementary green sash (hamayel-e sabz), and being given his own special accommodation at the royal court.

But soon difficulties emerged. Mozaffar ad-Din Shah's fondness for, and his commissioning of erotic paintings were not acceptable to Kamalolmolk.

In contrast to Nasser ad-Din Shah's time, when the painter received encouragement and praise in many ways, under the new shah he was constantly pestered by unwelcome demands from the sovereign and his entourage, which he did his best to evade in various ways.

In 1902, when his job dissatisfaction coincided with a tragic love affair, Kamalolmolk left Tehran for Baghdad and Karbala, where he stayed for about two years.

Finally, in Mozaffar ad-Din Shah's last years, Kamalolmolk had to feign a debilitating stroke, which had supposedly paralyzed the right side of his body and necessitated the use of a walking stick.

The Constitutional Revolution: Kamalolmolk was a freedom-loving artist and an ardent supporter of the Constitutional Revolution from the very start, often making sarcastic asides aimed at those opposed to constitutional reform.

In spite of facing severe financial difficulties during this period, Kamalolmolk refrained from painting the portrait of Mohammad-Ali Shah, heedless of pressure from the courtiers and the monarch's offer of a substantial sum for the work. (It is said that once he became so desperate that he went to the house of a friend to borrow five tumans.)

In the midst of the Constitutional Revolution in November 1906, a number of active constitutionalists founded the Freemasonry Lodge Réveil de l'Iran (Loj-e Bidari-e Iranian), affiliated with the Grand Orient de France, the first regularly affiliated lodge to operate in Iran.

A number of Kamalolmolk's friends were among the founding members of the Lodge, including Mohammad-Ali Foroughi Zoka' al-Molk and Ebrahim Hakimi Hakimi al-Molk.



Portrait of Haji Aliqoli Khan Sardar-As'ad Bakhtiari. (Majles Library Museum)

On their recommendation, Kamalolmolk joined the Lodge as a member. An indication of his interest in the constitutional movement is his exquisite portrait of Aliqoli Khan Bakhtiari Sardar As'ad (d. 1918), one of the two revolutionary leaders who led the successful march on Tehran in 1909 during the Constitutional period.

The Academy of Fine Arts: The founding of the Madrasa-ye Sanaye-e Mostazrafeh (the Academy of Fine Arts) in Tehran was one of the achievements of the Constitutional Movement.

Hakim al-Molk, the education minister and a friend of Kamalolmolk, was aware of the painter's aspiration to create a painting school and set about helping him in 1911.

He had the site for the school and the necessary budget approved by the Majles, allocating a piece of the Negarestan Palace property (one of Fath-Ali Shah's palaces, to the north of the present Baharestan Square) to the project.

At first, all went well, with the education ministers giving him a free hand in managing the school. Problems arose later when, in the 1920s, as part of the general process of modernizing the administration, the ministers of education began to implement new regulations in the school.

Kamalolmolk, regarded himself as above such regulations and was unable to adjust to the new situation. Having hitherto received orders solely from the sovereign himself, he thought it below his dignity to follow instructions from others.

To solve the problem, Hakim al-Molk promoted him to the position of deputy minister of education in charge of fine arts in 13 December 1920; he held the position until 1926.

Yet, any word or action instigated by others would be deemed malicious and would infuriate him as a result. In time, his perennial hot temper and growing distrust of authorities spread from the officials of the ministry of education to his own circle of friends, and finally maltreatment of the school by Mohammad Tadayyon, an infamous minister of education, led to Kamalolmolk's resignation in 1927.

This frustrating period for Kamalolmolk coincided with the rise to power of Reza Khan Sardar Sepah (later Reza Shah) and led to a myth of Kamalolmolk's struggle against the dictatorial regime that even attributed the accidental injury of his eye to a possible plot by the regime.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued.

Over 570 foreign films submitted to Fajr festival

From Page 1 ▶ Fajr's international section categories split from the festival in 2014, when the Cinema Organization of Iran, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the main organizer of the event, announced that the international competition would be held separately from the national section for the first time in 2015.

Following the management changes in the Cinema Organization of Iran in 2021, the new director of the organization, Mohammad Khazaei, ordered that the Fajr national and international film festivals be combined again for 2022.



41st Fajr International Film Festival

A poster for the 41st Fajr International Film Festival.

Iranian animators attracted to foreign studios over weak local currency: expert

TEHRAN – An expert has said that many Iranian animation studios prefer to work for their foreign counterparts as the local money has seen its value decrease in comparison to other currencies.

"Due to a sharp decline in the value of the local currency in comparison to the dollar, Iranian animation studios are willing to work for other countries," Ali Azizi told the Persian service of MNA.

"These studios were previously selling their productions to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), but I've heard that IRIB has not paid them as a result of the precarious circumstances surrounding its funding," he added.

"Moreover, strict IRIB rules and regulations impose certain restrictions on animation works, while animators want to have a free hand to let them use their creativity. As a result, they are reluctant to work with IRIB," explained Azizi who was formerly a manager of an animation school.

He has recently quit his job to direct an animation project.

Azizi said there are animation studios in Turkey that are working with Iranian animators who are

even allowed to work remotely. Their projects are totally or partly done by Iranian studios.

The Turkish studios pay the Iranian animators less than they pay their local employees. Nevertheless, the wages paid to them are still higher than what they receive in Iran.

He said that some Iranian animators have also been duped and have failed to receive their wages from the Turkish studios.

The animation industry has developed in Iran over the past decade, but the country has failed to exploit its commercial potential.

Ashkan Rahgozar, the director of Hooraksh, a major animation studio in Tehran, has frequently warned about the emigration of skilled and even semi-professional people working in the country's animation industry.

In an interview conducted last year, he said the financial motivations are the key factors in these migrations.

"Iran has not done well on efficiently training human resources in this field, and the



This file photo shows Iranian animators working at a studio of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon. (Kanoon/Hamid Tavakkoli)

professionals' migration issue has really become serious. We are seeing them going to foreign companies for higher salaries. I see no bright prospect for improvement in human resources here, because even semi-professionals are easily attracted by overseas companies," said Rahgozar who is the director of the acclaimed animated movie, "The Last Fiction".

"Swallow" reviewed at Tehran cultural center

TEHRAN – The acclaimed psychological thriller film "Swallow" written and directed by Carlo Mirabella-Davis was reviewed in a session on Sunday evening at Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural Center.

Iranian film critic Kurosh Jahed attended the session held under the patronage of the Tehran Film Club.

This film follows Hunter, a newly pregnant housewife who finds herself increasingly compelled to consume dangerous objects. As her husband and his family tighten their control over her life, she must confront the dark secret behind her



Haley Bennett acts in a scene from "Swallow" by Carlo Mirabella-Davis.

new obsession.

Starring Haley Bennett, Austin Stowell, Elizabeth Marvel, David Rasche, and Denis O'Hare, the French-American co-production had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 28, 2019.

"Swallow" received generally positive reviews from film critics. It holds an 88 percent approval rating on the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, based on 139 reviews, with an average of 7.4/10.

The site's critical consensus states that the film's "unconventional

approach to exploring domestic ennui is elevated by a well-told story and Haley Bennett's powerful leading performance."

On Metacritic, the film holds a rating of 65 out of 100, based on 22 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews."

Dissenting opinions included that of critic Barry Hertz of The Globe and Mail, who wrote, "Mirabella-Davis treats Hunter's behavior with kid gloves — it is a disorder that the film treats as fit for gawking and disgust, not anything close to understanding or empathy."

"Progress and Its Problems" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – The major Tehran-based publisher Ney has recently published American philosopher of science Larry Laudan's book "Progress and Its Problems: Towards a Theory of Scientific Growth".

Translated by Mohammad-Mehdi Hatef, the book was originally published in 1977.

This is a book that shakes the philosophy of science to its roots. Laudan both destroys and creates.

With detailed, scathing criticisms, he attacks the "pregnant confusions" in extant philosophies of science.

The progress they espouse derives from strictly empirical criteria, he complains, and this clashes

with historical evidence.

Accordingly, Laudan constructs a remedy from historical examples that involves nothing less than the redefinition of scientific rationality and progress.

Surprisingly, after this reshuffling, science still looks like a noble and progressive enterprise.

The glory of Laudan's system is that it preserves scientific rationality and progress in the presence of social influence. We can admit extra-scientific influences without lapsing into complete relativism... a must for both observers and practitioners of science. It is a critique and substantial revision of the historic theories of

scientific rationality and progress (Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos, Feyerabend, etc.).

Laudan focuses on contextual problem-solving effectiveness as a criterion for progress, and expands the notion of "paradigm" to a "research tradition", thus providing a meta-empirical basis for the commensurability of competing theories.

From this perspective, Laudan suggests revised programs for the history and philosophy of science, the history of ideas, and the sociology of science.

A superb work, closely argued, clearly written and extensively annotated, this book will become a widely required text in intermediate courses.

The story of hate turning into eternal love in "The Story of Love"

An interview with Muhammad Ali Jafari

The author of the two outstanding books "The Story of Love" and "Ammar-e Halab," Muhammad Ali Jafari, 37 years old, has written books about the lives of martyrs and some great people.

* **Exactly what is "The Story of Love" about?**

It's about Muhammad Hussain Mummadrkhan's life who was a Defender of the Holy Shrine in Syria.

* **Where did the inspiration for writing about this martyr's life come from?**

He and I were friends, and ever

since he became a martyr, I've wanted to do something for him. I started the interviews as a result. I decided to include the interviews with his fellow soldiers in a book titled "Ammar-e Halab" and the interview with his wife in another book titled "The Story of Love" after realizing that his memories could be addressed jointly during our meetings with his wife.

* **What do you consider to be this martyr's most striking personality trait, as one of his closest friends?**

Muhammadrkhan was notable and unique. He was constantly active due to his extroverted and energetic personality. He was one

of those people who worked in impoverished areas before going to Syria. Besides that, he always showed a special devotion to Imam Hussain throughout his life.

* **How much time was spent writing?**

From the interview to the writing, it took about six months.

* **What was the unique aspect of his life that distinguished it as a dependent book, and what does this book accomplish for its readership?**

He led a very contented and happy religious life, which caused us to alter our society's perception

of religious people, who are typically thought to not be seeking happiness.

Even though he lived in a very religious environment, his life was also filled with love, happiness, and affection. This way of life is admirable.

* **Were any details deleted for any reason from the published version of the book after your conversations with his wife?**

There were some details about his wife that she didn't want made public, and she wanted the entire book to be about her husband and his life, which I thought was very noble and admirable.