

# TEHRAN TIMES

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**Report**  
**UAE & Israel; normalization or revelation?**

The normalization of relations between some Arab countries and Israel is one of the things that have been discussed a lot in recent years, but what is not mentioned and is less discussed is that a significant number of Arab countries have had relations, of course secretly, in trade, security, and even defense fields for decades. And the establishment of diplomatic relations in public can be considered as the revelation of relations that have existed more or less since the past.

**Abraham Accords announcement of a new move**

Publicizing Israel's relations with some Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, began when the officials of these three countries in Washington, together with the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime, stood next to the infamous President of the United States, Donald Trump, until once again show the ugliest and most disgraceful pictures in the world of politics. ▶ Page 5

**Failure to notify does not mean failure to act: Foreign Ministry spokesman**

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has mentioned that how Tehran had responded to the use of a fictitious name for the Persian Gulf during a recent sporting event in Iraq.

In a weekly conference, he talked about how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had complained to the Iraqi government about the matter, and that Ministry of Sport and Youth and Football Federation had also taken action to protest the move. ▶ Page 3

**Three persons involved in Nov. 10 terror attack in Isfahan get death sentence**

TEHRAN – According to initial court verdicts concerning a terrorist attack in the central city of Isfahan, three persons were sentenced to capital punishment, Tasnim reported on Monday.

Accordingly, Amir Nasr Azadani, a footballer who was also an accomplice in the terrorist act, got a 16-year jail term.

The terrorist attack took place in the Mahaleh Khaneh of Isfahan on November 10 in which three "security defenders" named Mohsen Cheraqi, Mohsen Hamidi, and Mohammad Karimi were gunned down. ▶ Page 2

**Iran well-prepared for 2023 IHF World C'ship**

TEHRAN – Iran will participate at the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship at the highest level of preparation.

Team Melli took part at the 4 Nations Cup in Krakow, Poland, where the Persians suffered two defeats against Poland (32-27) and Belgium (35-31) and edged past Morocco 29-28.

Iran also beat Asian heavyweights South Korea 32-30 in a friendly match Sunday night.

Team Melli have been drawn along with Chile, Spain and Montenegro in Group A of the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship. The Persians will meet Chile on Jan. 12 in their opener.

The Championship will be held in Poland and Sweden from Jan. 11 to 29.

There is an extra incentive for the teams as the winners will seal an automatic berth at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This will go to the runners-up if France - already qualified as hosts - emerge victorious.

# Riots aimed to reverse success

▶ Page 3



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**New iron ore reserves discovered in central Iran**

TEHRAN – Director-general of planning at Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran (GSI) has announced the discovery of new iron ore reserves in central Iran, IRIB reported.

"Recently, in parts of central Iran, including the provinces of Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman, and Semnan, preliminary exploration operations have been carried out and good iron ore reserves have been discovered," Reza Jadidi said.

Jadidi put the country's current discovered iron ore reserves at approximately 3.3 billion tons, saying: "Considering that Iranian steel industries consume about 100 million tons of crude iron ore annually we have serious limitations on the amount of iron ore reserves in the country."

According to the official, the country's current iron ore reserves can only meet the domestic demand only for 15 years, which is not a

good situation.

"This calls the need for strict planning for the exploration of new iron ore reserves in the country," he stressed.

Earlier this month, Head of the IRON ORE ASSOCIATION OF IRAN (IROPEX) Mehrdad Akbarian said the country's current iron ore reserves are theoretically about 2.8 billion tons, however, the real figure is expected to be much more than that. ▶ Page 4

**Precipitations increase by 43 percent**

TEHRAN – Over the first half of the current Iranian calendar month (started December 22, 2022) precipitations rose 43.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

However, the volume of precipitations is still unfavorable and there is a shortfall over the long-term period, IRNA reported.

According to the report, 17.3 millimeters of precipitations were recorded in the 15-day period.

Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2022), precipitations have reached 52.6 millimeters, a decrease of 26.2 percent compared to 71.3 millimeters in the long-term period.

According to statistics, the average rainfall in the country in the last 50 years has been 270 mm, which has decreased by 230 mm, in other words, over the past 5 decades, the average rainfall has dropped by 40 mm.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average. ▶ Page 7



© ISNA/ Hadi Zandi

**Induction ceremony of new police chief held**

TEHRAN- The induction ceremony of the newly-elected Iranian police chief was held on Monday.

In a decree issued on Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan as police chief.

Radan replaced Hossein Ashtari, who had been serving in the post since 2014.

**Tarikhaneh marks 100 years on national heritage list**

TEHRAN –On Sunday, Tarikhaneh, one of the oldest standing mosques in Iran, marked the 100th anniversary of its registration on the national list of cultural heritage in a ceremony held at the ancient place of worship in Damghan.

The ceremony was attended by a host of local people, including tourism officials, religious scholars, history buffs, architects, and cultural heritage enthusiasts.

Speakers tuned the spotlight on the vibrant history of the mosque while exploring ways to step up efforts for its preservation as an exceptional Islamic structure.

Moreover, the event reviewed the latest preparations for the mosque's possible inclusion in the cultural heritage list of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).

The mosque, which was formerly a fire temple from the Sassanid era (224–651), gained a place on the list of cultural heritage in January 1931 (1310).

According to some sources, including ArchNet, a collaborative digital humanities project specializing in Islamic architecture, the Tarikhaneh is the oldest mosque still in operation in the nation. ▶ Page 6

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**Tehran Papers**

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

**A reminder to friends about name of Persian Gulf**

Without mentioning the name of Iraq and the recent friction between the two countries over the name of the Persian Gulf, ▶ Page 2

**Carter ordered CIA to topple Islamic Republic 10 months after the revolution: document**

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared on Monday that based on a credible American institute 10 months after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Jimmy Carter ordered CIA director Stansfield Turner to topple the Islamic Republic system.

The Leader said the report is based on declassified documents which are released after 30 or 40 years.

The document that the Leader referred to is related to a series of 359 documents between 1979-1980. The document related to Iran is the one numbered 110.

Carter's order was declared to the Special Coordination Committee that included Turner, national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Defense secretary Harold Brown, and secretary of state Cyrus Vance.

It was based on this order that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was provoked to launch attack on Iran on September 22, 1980. ▶ Page 2

**2023 Jalal Literary Awards finalists unveiled**

TEHRAN – Nominees for the four main categories of the 15th edition of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards were announced on Sunday.

"Siagalesh" by Ebrahim Akbari, "Faces of Silence" by Mohammad Qaemkhani, "Sur" by Hossein-Ali Jafari and "Azrael: Veteran" by Nima Akbarhaneh are competing in the novel category.

A jury comprising Rahim Makhdumi, Mohammadreza Sharafi and KhabushaMeisam Musavian selected the nominees for this section.

"Siagalesh" follows an Islamic seminary student named Yusef Rostami who is assigned the task of organizing Muharram mourning rituals in a village in the Talesh region in northern Iran.

In this novel, the writer describes Siagalesh, the legendary guardian of forest animals in the region.

In his novel "Faces of Silence", Qaemkhani centers on the differences arising from land, books and race in the history of Judaism. ▶ Page 8

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## A reminder to friends about name of Persian Gulf

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

from page 1 ▶ the Javan newspaper points to the historical roots of the name of the Persian Gulf and its importance for Iranians and wrote: "Some politicians in the allied countries should be careful that familiarity with diplomatic etiquette is very important and paying attention to details is very important in international relations."

They should not express their words in a non-diplomatic tone because lack of precision in using the term Persian Gulf can cause misunderstanding in public opinion and in politics and media, the paper suggested.

"It is better to avoid using the Gulf instead of the real name Persian Gulf."

**Iran: Paris is defeated and angry**

The Iran newspaper covers the insult of the French magazine Charlie Hebdo against Iran's top religious and political figure and writes: the result is due to the failures of Paris at various levels and anger towards the Islamic Republic.

"The political situation of France, which used to be a powerful country in Europe, has now degraded and has become vulgar and commonplace in some areas. Emmanuel Macron has become the president of a country that is a member of the UN Security Council and the third largest economy in Europe and has had thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu. When the prestige of a country has degraded to such a level, then the president meets with very low-level personalities like Masoumeh Alinejad; the case is true for a satirical magazine too," the newspaper said.

**Keyhan: Criticism against reformers**

In an analysis written by Hossein Shariatmadari, Keyhan criticized reformists for their recent positions. He wrote: "During the recent riots, reformists were supporting hired terrorists and thugs, and after the riots finished and the enemies failed, once again, while pretending they are philanthropists, began to give advice and called the Islamic Republic not to punish the murderers! without saying a word about their support for the murderers of people."

After insulting the Prophet of Islam a few years ago, the French magazine "Charlie Hebdo" shamelessly insulted the Leader of the revolution, and while the Iranians were angry against the French government and the magazine's insult, the reformists wanted a softer stance against the French government and the Charlie Hebdo magazine.

Now, the reformists on Twitter and other media outlets have called for the Islamic Republic's inaction in the face of the shameless insult! Now we ask them this question: what is the difference between your positions and actions and the positions and actions of the enemies of Islam and the revolution?!

**Shargh: Hashemi's foreign policy**

The Shargh newspaper interviewed Hashemi Rafsanjani's brother on the occasion of his demise anniversary. In the interview, Mohammad Hashemi says about what approach Hashemi Rafsanjani's would have taken in foreign policy if he were alive:

"From a general point of view, his opinion on foreign policy had not changed; because his strategy

in foreign relations was de-escalation," the brother said.

"In international relations, he cared about de-escalation, relations, mutual respect, and common interests. All countries have their own national interests in relation to other countries. There must be mutual respect in foreign relations. Therefore, Mr. Hashemi had his own point of view on the world during his eight years of presidency, so many countries improved their relations with Iran after the war with Iraq and went towards improving peaceful relations and common interests. I am sure if Hashemi was alive, he would interact with the world."

**Arman-e Emrooz: We need new political figures**

Arman-e Emrooz emphasized the presence of new politicians in the country's political atmosphere and wrote: "The current situation shows that we, in all fields, face with challenges and problems."

Parliamentary elections are one of the opportunities that, with the candidacy of moderate political figures, can help rid the country out of its current dilemma, it said.

Criticizing the accumulation of citizens' needs, the newspaper writes, "Even the officials believe that Iran needs new managers at this time. One of the criticisms in this regard is lack of attention to the performance of former managers who always want to remain in their positions by creating an environment without competition. One of the needs to improve the condition is the maximum participation in the upcoming elections."

It adds, "The presence of extremists in the country's political arena has always shown that we cannot achieve success and development in domestic politics, nor can we secure national interests in foreign policy."

**Vatan-e Emrooz: Similarity between reformists and Netanyahu**

Vatan-e Emrooz draws a similarity between the position of the prime minister of Israel and some reformists regarding the execution of two rioters and writes: "Netanyahu and people like him, who are the loathed enemies of the Iranian people, are not alone in supporting chaos in Iran."

If Israel and the Westerners are the main leaders of rioters and insecurity in Iran, then reformists are considered as their soldiers inside the country, the conservative publication opined.

During the past few months, no one remembers that a reformist and or their media have said a word condemning the riots, assassinations, and killing of security defenders, it added.

"On the contrary, by calling rioters 'protesters' and covering up their crimes, they have actually supported riots and terror... The reformists' solidarity with Netanyahu in defending the rioters once again confirms that the political current is playing the role of the Israeli soldiers and the Westerners. That is why it can be said that in the case of the recent riots, the reformists have engaged with Netanyahu and Israel."

## Carter ordered CIA to topple Islamic Republic 10 months after the revolution: document

from page 1 ▶ In his order, Carter had said he considered operation against a "foreign country" important for the American national security.

For that purpose, Carter tasked Turner or his representative to brief congressional committees on the operation and if necessary, hold briefing sessions to justify the operation.

Carter ordered propagandistic, political and economic operation against the Islamic Republic in order to establish what he called a "democratic and responsible" regime in Iran.

The order contained contacts with Iranian opposition leaders and concerned influential bloc that would be able to replace the Islamic Republic.

## Three persons involved in Nov. 10 terror attack in Isfahan get death sentence

from page 1 ▶ The attack took was pre-planned and the armed assailants attacked people and security forces to the extent that even a number of citizens and security defenders were injured.

The three persons sentenced to death are Saleh Mirhashemi Boltaghi, Majid Kazemi

Sheikh Shabani, and Saeed Yaghoobi. According to Tasnim, Boltaghi was linked to the Mujaheddin Khalq Organization (MKO).

The court hearings against the convicts, who were six persons, were held between Dec. 28 to Dec. 31.

The verdicts are open to appeal.

TEHRAN – Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said on Sunday that it is necessary that Iran play a role in "any political initiative" in his country as he lauded Tehran's constructive role in fighting terrorism in Syria and helping settle the crisis in the Arab country.

Mekdad made the comments in a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Iran and Russia, as the allies of the Syrian government, as well as Turkey, which sides with the opposition, set up the Astana peace process in January 2017 to put an end to the Syrian conflict through the involvement of the Syrian government and the opposition.

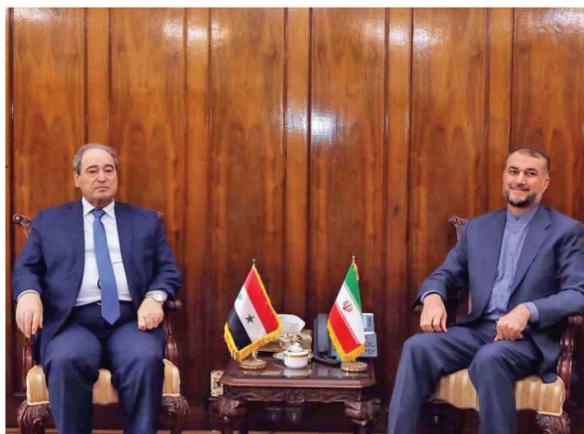
In their Sunday talks, Mekdad and Amir Abdollahian also talked about the latest state in ties as well as developments in Syria and the region.

They also underlined the resolve of the high-ranking officials in Syria and Iran to cement ties in different spheres.

Last month, Amir Abdollahian reaffirmed Iran's support for political processes in resolving disputes in Syria, describing cooperation among regional states as the sole way to ensure sustainable security in Syria.

It seems that Syria is on the path to stability after efforts to topple the Syrian government ended in failure.

Turkey as one of the countries which was hellbent on overthrowing the Syrian government and allowed militants from different parts of the



## Damascus wants Iran to be involved in political initiatives in Syria

world to pour into Syria through Turkey is now mulling a summit between the Turkish and Syrian leaders.

According to Al Jazeera, President Erdogan said on Thursday he may sit down with the Syrian president to foster peace and stability in Syria. Erdogan made the remarks a week after a meeting between the Turkish and Syrian defense ministers.

The Russian, Turkish and Syrian defense chiefs and top intelligence officers held surprise talks in Moscow on December 28 in the highest level of official contact between the archrivals in more than a decade.

"Turkey, Russia and Syria have

launched a process in Moscow," the Turkish president said, speaking in the capital Ankara on Thursday, adding that the foreign ministers of the three countries are expected to gather in a trilateral format soon.

"After that we may meet as the Russian, Turkish, and Syrian leaders, depending on the developments. Our aim is to establish peace and stability in the region," Erdogan claimed.

Mensur Akgun, a professor of international relations, said Ankara's recent change of approach towards al-Assad stems from major shifts in dynamics in the region compared with 11 years ago when the ties between the two countries were

officially cut at the height of the Arab Spring.

He also believes that Russia played a key role in starting the recent dialogue between the two archrivals.

"As a result of Turkey's developing special relationship with Russia, Moscow has pursued Ankara's interests more in its relations with Syria, pressuring the Assad government in this direction," Akgun told Al Jazeera.

Turkey has backed and hosted Syria's opposition in the country since the beginning of the conflict.

Akgun believes that Ankara's security concerns in Syria also played a large role in the rapprochement between Damascus and Ankara.

"Turkey believes that if it can cooperate with Syria, the majority of its security concerns within Syria will be addressed and the responsibilities it is carrying in this context will be delegated to the Syrian government," Akgun told Al Jazeera.

Ankara has conducted four military operations in northern Syria since the beginning of the war, mainly targeting Syrian Kurdish fighters who are allied with Western powers in the fight against Daesh (ISIS).

A warming of ties between the Turkish and Syrian governments looked impossible in the earlier days of the Syrian conflict. Turkish officials called al-Assad a "terrorist", rejecting any dialogue with his leadership, while al-Assad accused Turkey of invading Syrian land.

## 'Azerbaijan, Armenia should respect each other's territorial integrity'

### Ex-diplomat says blockade of Lachin corridor is against international law

TEHRAN – Mohsen Pakaeen, Iran's former ambassador to Baku, has told the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR), that the blockade of the Lachin corridor by Azerbaijan has caused criticisms and dissatisfaction by Armenia.

The Lachin crossing is the route that connects Karabagh to Armenia and this crossing is the only exit from Karabagh to Armenia, where food, welfare and other necessary items are usually transferred to Karabagh, Pakaeen said.

The former ambassador said if the crossing remains closed, practically the Armenians living in the region will come under economic siege.

If the siege is prolonged, it will lead to a humanitarian disaster, the former diplomat predicted.

He stated that this issue is very important, especially in the field of transporting medicine and food in the winter season.

Armenia has declared that the Republic of Azerbaijan has completely closed the Lachin crossing, but the Azerbaijani side insists that the crossing is not closed. Azerbaijan says only in some cases, restrictions have been imposed, claiming that Armenia smuggles minerals from the area.

The former ambassador said the reality is that the Armenians of Karabakh are currently caught in a complicated situation and this dilemma may be due to the complete blockade of Lachin or restrictions on the movement of Armenians from Karabakh to Armenia and vice versa.

In any case, Pakaeen said, this situation is not a good and these actions are against the standards of human rights, and as a result, many innocent people have been exposed to danger and harm.

Referring to the role of regional players and international organizations, Pakaeen said Azerbaijan should be asked to abolish the restrictions but it has the right to monitor the mines in the region.

Preventing misuse of mines should not be an excuse to close the crossing, he suggested.

The Lachin region belongs to the Republic of Azerbaijan, and it has the right to exercise sovereignty over the region, and if the claim of mineral smuggling is true, it can easily prevent the action, the former diplomat pointed out.

Reminding that these Armenians are citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and should not be put in danger, Pakaeen noted it is possible that due to the non-opening of the Zangzor corridor, the Republic of Azerbaijan is looking for a countermeasure

to block the Lachin corridor.

Yerevan has announced that it is ready to open the Zangzor corridor on the condition that its sovereignty over its territorial integrity of Armenia is preserved. The corridor is located in Sivnik province of Armenia and is considered part of the territorial integrity of the country.

Emphasizing that the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia should respect each other's territorial integrity and observe international standards, the expert on the South Caucasus region said "the Republic of Armenia should accept that Karabakh is under the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan and adopt the solution to the issue based on this reality. And the Republic of Azerbaijan must accept that the Sionik corridor is inside Armenia and Yerevan has the right to exercise sovereignty over it."

Noting that provocations by Turkey and the Zionist regime should not be ignored, Pakaeen said Turkey, which has a historical dispute with Armenia, is not interested in seeing a normalization of relations between Yerevan and Baku.

War, or at least not war and not peace, is desirable for Turkey, the former diplomat remarked.

Likewise, the Zionist regime, which sells weapons to Baku and also has intelligence and security cooperation with Armenia, is not interested in an end to the tension because in that case it will lose its benefits, he said.

## "The Republic of Azerbaijan should be demanded to cancel the restrictions it has placed on the Lachin corridor and clarify the ambiguities surrounding the Moscow Agreement, otherwise there is always the possibility of conflicts."

However, joint efforts by Iran and Russia as mediators can help reduce the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan to create a better situation in the region, Pakaeen noted.

Referring to the negotiations in the past days between Russia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the former ambassador said Tehran and Moscow strongly oppose any change to the geopolitics of the



region and it is essential to pay attention to this red line.

"Until the negotiations between Yerevan and Baku continue, and the parties do not seek to solve the problem through military means and there is no danger of threatening the geographical borders, Iran and Russia should try to reduce their problems through mediation. But if the military path is to be followed and the geographical borders are changed, which seems unlikely in the current situation, then other decisions should be taken into consideration," the former diplomat suggested.

Pakaeen emphasized that it seems unlikely that Armenia will cede the Sionik corridor to the Republic of Azerbaijan by ignoring its territorial integrity, because in that case the connection between the north and the south of Armenia will be completely cut off and a large part of its territorial integrity will be lost.

The resistance shown by Armenia is intended not to lose control over its territorial integrity, he said.

At the same time efforts should be made for the Armenians of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who are in Karabakh, to get out of the siege, he added.

"The ambiguities of the Moscow Agreement, which was signed with the presence of Russia between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, should be resolved and it should be clarified precisely which country's territorial integrity the Zangzor corridor belongs to. Of course, the Russians have declared that this corridor is within the territorial integrity of Armenia, but this issue should be included in the agreements. At the same time, Nagorno-Karabakh should return to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Baku should promise to respect the rights of the Armenian minorities of Nagorno-Karabakh and not create any problems for them. Otherwise, there is always the possibility of disagreements and scattered conflicts," the former ambassador stated.

# Riots aimed to reverse success: Leader

TEHRAN- Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has asserted that the recent brutal disturbances in Iran were a ploy by the foes to undermine Iran's advancement and strengths.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Monday to a gathering of citizens from Qom on the anniversary of the 1978 uprising in Qom against the then-U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

The uprising in Qom has the potential to restore Iran's historical identity, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

He added that the movement in 1978 had the potential to free Iran from the oppressive Western culture and provide it independence, emphasizing that the Qom uprising represents the historical essence of Iran, Islam, and Islamic Iran.

The Pahlavi regime's reliance on the U.S., according to the Leader, was the primary cause of their irrational conduct of publishing a vile essay against the late Imam Khomeini.

In reference to the U.S.'s huge leverage on the Pahlavi regime, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that the people's battle against this tyranny was truly a struggle against the United States.



Ayatollah Khamenei underscored that over the past 43 years, the U.S. has sought to undermine the Islamic system, with misinformation serving as their primary weapon of hostility against Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that the rioters in Iran had not really taken to the streets to voice displeasure with the economic hardships that Western sanctions had caused.

"It cannot be denied that our current economic and livelihood issues are severe. Can burning garbage cans, marching to the streets, and starting riots, however, address these issues? They aimed to

destroy the strengths of the Iranian nation rather than address its flaws," the Leader stressed.

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted that while the United States and other European countries publicly supported the turmoil in one or another form, foreign foes were directly involved in the country's widespread riots.

The Leader went on to say that the media's hysteria against the Islamic Republic was intended to give the appearance that the rioters were angry about the country's economic woes and other deficiencies.

"They, however, desired the persistence of deficiencies. The goal was to eradicate the nation's advantages," he remarked.

Ayatollah Khamenei gave specific instances to support his position, including attempts to jeopardize Iran's national security, halt scientific advancement through the closure of educational and scientific institutions, restrain the development of domestic industry, and impair expanding industries like tourism.

The enemies propagated their role in recent uprisings via online propaganda as well as through Western and regional news outlets, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

The Leader emphasized that the actions of the rioters were treasonous and urged relevant institutions and state authorities to take any act of treachery sternly.

After Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, died suddenly in a hospital on September 16, three days after fainting at a police station in Tehran, protests supported by foreign governments erupted in many cities. According to an investigation, Amini's illness triggered her death rather than reported police abuse.

## IRGC chief compares recent riots in Iran to "world war"

TEHRAN- The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has stressed that the recent foreign-backed riots in Iran are regarded as a "world war," but Iranian youths thwarted Western-conceived ploys to destabilize the country.

Referring to the riots broke out in Iran in mid-September last year, Major General Hossein Salami noted on Monday that "in a sedition and world war, our enemies, in the past few months, wanted to close schools, universities and economic centers and create chaos in the country, but Iran's youths, women and girls did not go along with them and defeated their schemes."



He added those who follow the West by backing further unrest aim to "ruin the country and impede its prosperity."

Salami also said haughty powers are seeking to destabilize regional countries, pointing to

Western schemes to undermine Muslim nations like Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan.

The IRGC chief emphasized how the foes have been unable to overthrow the "strong" Islamic Republic, saying, "The war is still ongoing, and the enemies are not tranquil, but we will bring them under control and overthrow all of them."

He stated that Iranian soldiers are willing to give their lives for the benefit of the country, adding that "they are not frightened of the enemy and are ready to beat the enemy in all domains."

## Failure to notify does not mean failure to act: Foreign Ministry

From Page 1 ▶

**"Charlie Hebdo caricatures clear instance of hate speech"**

Kanaani has denounced the offensive caricature published by Charlie Hebdo, calling the action a blatant example of hate speech and a provocation, noting, Charlie Hebdo caricatures were offensive to both the status of women in society and the religious sanctuaries of the Iranian people.

"We are disappointed that this magazine is produced in a country that claims to cherish values and defend others' rights but fails to stand by the most evident principles and standards that govern international law," he added.

The official reaffirmed that the Iranian Foreign Ministry had summoned the French ambassador in Tehran shortly after the desecration to inform that country that the caricatures had disrespected Islamic beliefs.

The spokesperson said that the Zionist regime of Israel was involved

in the dissemination of the Charlie Hebdo caricatures since the event coincided with the Zionists' attempt to damage the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Palestine.

He called on all governments and countries throughout the globe to respond appropriately to such sacrilegious actions and lambasted the French government for encouraging the distribution of offensive cartoons under the guise of freedom of speech.

**"Iran, China comprehensive deal result of officials' political will"**

Regarding the 25-year partnership agreement signed by Iran and China, Kanaani stated that it demonstrates the political will of senior officials of the two countries to advance bilateral ties. He also noted that the two sides would keep holding negotiations to facilitate the partnership agreement's implementation.

**"Afghanistan embassy in Iran"**

In response to a question on

the operation of Afghanistan's embassy in Iran, he remarked that Iran's position on the matter has not changed, and that the Afghan diplomatic mission would continue its operations in Iran within the pre-existing parameters.

**"Trip of Raisi to regional countries"**

Regarding the impending visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the region, the official stated that trips to Turkey and Syria are being planned as a result of invitations from the leaders of those two countries.

**"Qatar-Iran ties"**

The governor of the Central Bank of Iran and an Iranian deputy foreign minister visited Qatar last week to strengthen bilateral banking and financial exchanges, he added, noting that Doha and Tehran have been involved in bilateral and international contacts.

**"Talks on lifting anti-Iranian sanctions and cooperation with IAEA"**

The official also mentioned that conversations between Iran

and foreign powers are continuing to discuss removing sanctions against the country and restarting a 2015 agreement on its nuclear program.

Although he added that he was unaware of any planned visits by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Tehran, he emphasized that Iran and the IAEA are still working together.

Kanaani also criticized some European authorities for utilizing the rules and regulations of international law to further their personal goals against Iran by supporting some rioters.

**"Families of victims of Ukrainian plane"**

In response to a query on the compensation provided to the relatives of those died in the tragic accident of the Ukrainian airliner three years ago, he stated that Iran will live up to its international obligations while acting in accordance with its domestic laws.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Gen. Soleimani assassination egregious instance of 'state terrorism': speaker

**'Trump and his aides must face trial for assassination'**

TEHRAN- The speaker of Iran's parliament on Monday described the assassination of senior anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani and his comrades in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad as a blatant instance of "state terrorism."

Speaking at the 13th session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in the Turkish capital Ankara, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf remembered the heinous crime committed against the global heroes of the battle against terrorism by former U.S. president Donald Trump on January 3, 2022.

Qalibaf went on to add that General Soleimani, the IRGC Quds Force commander, dedicated his entire life to securing regional and global security and took decisive action against Takfiri organizations and international terrorism.

Iran's parliament speaker emphasized that Trump and all of his aides and assistants must face justice in relevant courts and judicial bodies.

**"Substantial stance of Asia"**

The speaker said that the world is going through

a difficult time that affects all people and is not limited to only one country, continent, or region.

He also noted that Asia now has a unique position in the globe and has the potential to play a significant role in resolving global issues.

Governments should accept multilateralism as a pattern based on Asian cooperation, he remarked, adding that values like territorial integrity and non-interference in other nations' internal affairs should be maintained by all states in order to build a new international order based on fairness.

He exhorted Asian countries to take a more active part in world affairs by using coordinated strategies and shared goals at regional and international institutions.

Decrying American unilateralism, he also pointed out that Western nations which denigrated the Islamic Prophet of Islam and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution want to present their own cultural norms as the finest ones. He made the comments in reference to the insulting images of the French magazine Charlie Hebdo against Iran.

**"Palestinian cause"**

Qalibaf also stated that the subject of Palestine and its oppressed people merit greater world attention.

"We believe that the final solution to the Palestinian crisis will be possible not through imposed plans to consolidate the occupation, but by referring to the votes of the Palestinian people, the return of the Palestinian refugees to the country, and establishment of a just peace," the speaker emphasized.

He underlined Iran's preparedness to meet current difficulties and regional countries' shared objectives, particularly in bolstering multilateralism.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly is regarded as one of the most significant organizations in Asia which is set up to help advancement of multilateralism.

Turkey hosts the assembly between January 9 and 10, with seven countries participating at the level of speaker and four countries at the level of deputy speaker.

## SPORTS

### Ex-Iran volleyball player Gholami announces retirement

TEHRAN - Former Iran volleyball team middle blocker Adel Gholami called time on his playing career on Monday.

Gholami announced retirement at the age of 37.

He was a member of Iran golden generation who won two gold medals at the 2013 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship in Dubai and 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.

Gholami also represented Iran at the 2016 Olympic Games, where Team Melli finished in fifth place.

"I want to thank everyone who has contributed to my success. I played volleyball for 20 years and enjoyed every moment of the sport. I wanted to continue playing but I was forced to end my career due to back injury," he posted on his Instagram.

### World No.2 Selby knocked Out of Masters by Hossein Vafaei

TEHRAN - Mark Selby, the three-times Masters champion, suffered an early exit as he lost 6-2 to the Iranian debutant Hossein Vafaei at Alexandra Palace on Sunday evening.

Vafaei is not in the world top 16, who qualify automatically, but took Zhao Xintong's place in the draw after the Chinese star became one of 10 players suspended from the tour amid an investigation into match-fixing.

The Iranian made two centuries and further breaks of 99, 52 and 65 to beat Selby for the third time in succession. In contrast, Selby's highest break of the evening was only 49 as he suffered a third first-round loss at the Masters in the last four years.

Vafaei is the first Iranian to win a ranking tournament, the first to play at the Crucible and now the first to play in the Masters.

"I can't believe it," he told Eurosport. "Am I asleep or awake? Honestly, I can't believe it. He's such a tough opponent, he never gives up. He's such a legend and it's such a pleasure to share the table with him."

"I'm so proud of myself to beat him again. He's one of the greatest ambassadors we have so I'm so happy to do the hat-trick against him."

### Aluminum winger Yuel joins Umm Salal on loan

TEHRAN - Aluminum South Sudanese winger Valentino Kuach Yuel joined Qatari club Umm Salal on loan.

The 27-year-old player, who has played six matches for his national team, had joined the Iranian outfit from Australian team Newcastle Jets in August.

Yuel will have to participate in Qatari's club medical exam within the next few days.

Aluminum sit ninth in Iran Professional League.

### Iran's Khazaei to officiate at 2023 IFBB PRO

TEHRAN - Akbar Khazaei is the only IFBB PRO bodybuilding judge from Iran.

He has moved the boundaries in bodybuilding in all fields and is a scientific and technical figure, as well.

Khazaei has acquired various international certifications and positions in bodybuilding, the most prominent of which include the only Iranian professional judge of the International Federation of Bodybuilding (IFBB\_pro), coach of Iran's national fitness team, premier international bodybuilding coach and so on.

He also has been the head coach of several famous and well-known clubs in Tehran.

### Iran to host 2023 Asian Men's Club Handball Championship

TEHRAN - The Asian Handball Federation (AHF) has awarded the hosting rights of the 25th Asian Men's Club Handball Championship to Iran Handball Federation (IRIHF).

The competition is scheduled to be held from June 1 to 11, 2023, in Isfahan, Iran.

The winners of the competition will qualify for the 17th IHF Men's Super Globe, which is scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia in the last quarter of this year.

The defending champions are Al-Kuwait Sporting Club (Kuwait), which won the competition back in 2022. The record title holders are Al-Sadd Sports Club (Qatar), which won the championship five times between 2000 and 2005.

### Feyenoord deserved a draw against Utrecht: Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN - Feyenoord winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that they deserved to earn a draw against Utrecht.

He saved a point for Feyenoord just in time in the match against FC Utrecht.

As a substitute, the Iranian scored the equalizer and prevented Feyenoord from resuming the competition with a defeat.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game," Jahanbakhsh said to ESPN.

"They had one chance, but they did score. In the second half, we knew we had to perform better. I tried to make my move and be dangerous on the right," said the goalscorer.

After his goal, Feyenoord went on the hunt for the equalizer.

"In the last twenty-five minutes, we were in a position to create more chances. Unfortunately, we didn't win the game. We had the chance to make it 1-2, but that didn't happen."

"The trainer decides the line-up. We didn't give away many chances in the first half. Utrecht are always difficult. After the first fifteen minutes, we were better. We had more possession and we tried to create chances," Jahanbakhsh concluded.

### Iranian fencers to compete at Tunisia's Grand Prix Sabre

TEHRAN - Three fencers will represent Iran in the 2023 FIE Fencing Grand Prix Sabre.

The competition will be held in Tunis, capital of Tunisia on January 13-15.

Ali Pakdaman, Mohammad Rahbari and Mohammad Fotouhi will participate in the tournament.

The Iranian trio will travel to Tunisia on Wednesday.

### Wenger to help India develop talent

TEHRAN - Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will work with India to develop football talent as the All India Football Federation attempts to overhaul its "identity and philosophy", the organization revealed on Saturday.

"We will have a data driven scouting system in place for the national team," AIFF general secretary Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran said. "We are going to work on this project with FIFA and Arsene Wenger is personally going to devote his time."

Wenger is currently working for FIFA as its head of global football development.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey did not specify Wenger's exact role in the talent development program but said the exercise would be key to making India a football powerhouse by 2047 - the country's centenary of independence.

## 7th NDP should focus on expanding economic diplomacy: ICCIMA head



TEHRAN – Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called on the authorities in charge of developing the country's seventh five-year National Development Plan (NDP) to focus

more on expanding economic diplomacy.

Speaking in a meeting with the chamber's board of representatives on Sunday, Gholam-Hosein Shafeie referred to the preparation of the seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026) by the government and suggested the formation of a special institution for planning and implementation of the mentioned plan, free from short-term political fluctuations and governments shifts.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, Shafeie emphasized the necessity of paying attention to the seventh NDP as a tool of economic diplomacy to solve crises and rebuild Iran's role in the global economic value chain.

## 406km of new railways to go operational in Iran by Mar. 2024

TEHRAN – Kheirollah Khademi, the managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), has said 406 kilometers (km) of railway projects will go operational across the country by March 2024, IRIB reported.

Mentioning the recent inauguration of the 155km Zahedan-Khash railroad in southeastern Iran, Khademi said: "Another 406 kilometers of railway projects will go operational by the end of this [Iranian calendar] year (March 20) and

during the next year (ends in March 2024)."

According to the official the mentioned railways include five prioritized projects that all have reached physical progress between 75 percent and 90 percent.

He stated that there are 3,300 kilometers of railway projects in progress across the country, adding: "We have also about 6,000 kilometers of railway projects in the study stage, which we have not started yet, but they are in the country's development plan."

## Ways of improving business environment discussed at TCCIMA meeting

TEHRAN – The 29th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Business Environment Improvement Committee was held on Sunday during which the negative impacts of redundant regulations on domestic production and business environment were discussed.

During the meeting, various issues were raised among which the need to prevent the passing of new regulations by the parliament, addressing

the issues related to knowledge-based companies and the effects and consequences of prescribed pricing in the air transportation industry can be mentioned.

As the TCCIMA portal reported, the challenges that the private sector businessmen are facing in issuing and renewing their commercial ID cards were also among the subjects discussed at the meeting.

## Iran Agri Show 2023 running in Tehran

TEHRAN – The seventh International Exhibition of Agriculture, Agricultural Machinery and Equipment, Input, and Irrigation Systems (Iran Agri Show 2023) kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Monday.

Over 350 exhibitors are gathered together in this four-day event to showcase their

latest products and services in the field of agriculture and related industries, the portal of Iran's Agriculture Ministry reported.

As reported, the opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials including Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad and Head of the Parliament Agriculture Committee Mohammad-Javad Asgari.

## TEDPIX climbs 11,600 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 11,678 points to 1.646 million on Monday.

As reported, over 19.11 billion securities worth 101.107 trillion rials (about \$266 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 5,565 points, and the second market's index climbed 32,724 points.

TEDPIX lost 68,000 points to 1.579 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

## Export from North Khorasan rises 194% in 9 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of export from North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 194 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Abbas Baqeri, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, said that over 153,000 tons of products worth \$108.954 million were exported from the province in the said nine-month period, indicating also 248 percent growth in terms of weight year on year.

He named petrochemical products, steel sections, aluminum ingots, sponge sheets, plastic products, tomato paste, mineral water, saffron, concrete block, citric acid, sodium hydroxide, limestone, and granules as the major exported items, and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy and Iraq as the main exported destinations.

The official further announced that more than 76,000 tons of commodities worth \$49.7 million were imported to the province in the first nine months of the present year, with 28 percent rise in value and 301 percent growth in weight year on year.

# New iron ore reserves discovered in central Iran

from page 1 ▶ According to Akbarian, the country's iron ore reserves are estimated to be about five billion tons.

The official noted that, so far 500,000 tons of the country's total iron ore reserves have been consumed and processed.

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

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which



is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's

exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

## Honey consumption per capita high in Iran

TEHRAN- As announced by an official with Agriculture Ministry, the honey consumption per capita in Iran is one of the highest ones in the world, because the consumption per capita in the world is about 500 grams, while in Iran it is more than one kilogram.

Hossein Damavandi-Nejad, the deputy minister for livestock products, said, "The production of 120 million tons of agricultural products in the country and standing at the eighth place in the world in this field, has the footprints of honey bees in it, and some products in gardens and farms are up to 100 percent dependent on bees and without bees they will not be able to pollinate by wind and other insects".

"In some countries, the gardener must pay up to 100 dollars to the beekeeper for the beekeeper to establish his bee colony in the garden for a while, but in our country, in addition to the gardener taking a fee from the beekeeper for establishing the colony, with some unannounced pesticides spraying, they bring damages to beekeepers", he lamented.

Damavandi-Nejad considered the most important service of honeybees to be related to horticulture and agriculture and restated: "Our honey consumption per capita is one of the highest ones in the world, despite the fact that the cost of honey production in our country is high, and it is a promising issue."

Based on the data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Iran is the third-largest producer of honey in the world.

Last August, the director of the Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development program had said the country's annual honey production is expected to reach 115,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (ends on March 20).

Touraj Saremi noted that Agriculture Ministry has defined a five-year development plan to reform the structure of the country's apiaries and increase the quantity and quality of honey production during the Iranian calendar year 1401 to 1405 (begins in March 2026).

"The implementation of this program requires the necessary support for providing inputs, implementing educational-training programs, and providing facilities to beekeepers. It is also required to provide apiaries with insurance coverage to reduce the risks and to ensure sustainable production," he said.

The official noted that the ministry is also pursuing opening a credit line to be able to meet part of the needs of producers in this sector within the framework of rules and regulations.

Iranian beekeepers managed to produce 112,000 tons of honey in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Due to the high quality of Iranian honey, the product is exported to many countries including China, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, and



Lebanon.

Back in March 2020, the former director of the Iranian Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development plan had said the country's beekeeping industry was planned to become the leading agricultural sector in the country, the leading honey producer in the region, and a strong player in the world markets.

"Benefiting from up-to-date knowledge, and technology, the industry is going to provide reliable, high-quality products with greater value-added," Farhad Moshir Qafari said.

Over the past five years, Iran's beekeeping industry shifted its focus from producing only one main product, namely honey, to producing other bee secretions such as royal jelly and bee venom, Qafari said at the time.

"Melittin is a very valuable bee venom extract that is currently imported, but the beekeeping industry has the potential to produce this substance inside," he stressed.

## Transport index increases by 4.6% in railway sector

TEHRAN- The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said the transport index (TI), which refers to the total number of person-kilometers and ton-kilometers, and is a kind of indicator of the total performance of the country's railways, has grown by 4.6 percent in the country in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21,



2022), as compared to the same period of the previous year.

Making the remarks in a meeting with the board of directors of the Union of Rail Transport Companies on Sunday, Miad Salehi said, "Despite the country's economic difficulties, the railway sector has taken important steps forward in the first nine months of this year."

One of the very important matters that was followed up seriously and very good successes have been achieved, is the amendment of the Article 12 implementation procedure. In this regard, the new procedure document has been signed by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and Oil Minister Javad Oji, the RAI head announced.

## Direct shipping line launched between Iran, Cuba

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said a direct shipping line has been launched between Iran and Cuba which is expected to significantly improve the economic relations between the two countries.

"[A] Direct shipping [line] has been established between Iran and Cuba since the last 20 days, which will increase the trade between the two countries," Safari told IRIB on Monday.

"Based on the conducted research, our country has also the potential to cooperate with Cuba in carrying out various projects, especially in the field of energy," the official said.

Last May, Iran and Cuba finalized a roadmap for barter trade between the two countries and signed a document in this regard during the 18th meeting of their joint economic committee in Tehran.

As reported, the document was signed by Iran's Deputy Industry Minister for Commercial and Trade Affairs Mohammad-Sadegh Mofatteh and Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz.

During the meeting, the officials explored

the existing capacities and market needs of the other side in various fields and good agreements were reached for long-term cooperation in order to improve the level of trade exchanges.

The two countries also stressed the need for developing industrial, mining, and trade cooperation between the two countries during the mentioned event.

Attended by senior officials and representatives of various economic sectors from both sides, the 18th meeting of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Committee was held in Tehran during May 15-17, 2022.

As the special envoy of the Cuban president, Cabrisas Ruiz headed a high-ranking delegation to Iran with the aim of meeting with the officials of the Islamic Republic and attending the meeting of the two countries' joint economic committee.

During his stay in Tehran, Cabrisas Ruiz also met with Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, during which he stressed the expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

Speaking in this meeting, Khandouzi stated that the Iranian government has always

welcomed the establishment of long-term and stable economic relations with Latin American countries, especially Cuba.

"Given the excellent political relations between the two countries, Cuba is of particular importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

Referring to the history of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health and agriculture, Khandouzi emphasized the need to improve economic relations between the two countries and said: "We are expected to take more serious steps to develop cooperation and implement agreements."

The minister further pointed to the lack of proper knowledge regarding business and economic opportunities and advantages of trade and investment between the two countries as the most important reason for the weak trade collaborations between Iran and Cuban private sectors.

He then announced Iran's readiness to hold online meetings with the presence of representatives of the government and private sectors of Iran and Cuba in order to exchange knowledge about the business and investment opportunities of the two countries.

From page 1 ▶ Abraham Accords was signed at the White House on Sept. 15, 2020, between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco.

Undoubtedly, the Accords, which is called a historic breakthrough in Israeli-Arab relations, can be considered the official declaration and publicization of the relations of some Arab countries with Israel, which was initiated under the former administration of Donald Trump.

The deal was orchestrated by Jared Kushner, Trump's son in law, who is trying to prove himself as a worthy consultant, after the great failure he and his father-in-law faced in implementing the "Deal of Century." Trump openly complimented him by saying: "You did a great job! People do not understand the things that they can do ... I don't think anyone can do what he did."

### UAE, Israel common agreement with different goals

The United Arab Emirates was one of the pioneer countries in normalizing relations with Israel, a move that Saudi Arabia did not easily dare to announce publicly. Despite its satisfaction to establish relations with Israel, the UAE publicly spoke about its plan for the future of the Zionist regime in the Persian Gulf.

### UAE expects to buy advanced US military equipment

The UAE's agreement with Israel will definitely not be limited to a mere diplomatic relationship.

The UAE is one of the big markets in the region and trade, defense and security relations can complement the diplomatic relations.

The UAE had two goals from the broad agreement with Israel;

First, use Israel's own defense and security capabilities to deal with regional and extra-regional rivals.

Two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on 22 September that Israel agreed to sell the advanced Rafael air defense system to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the first arms deal between the two countries since the normalization of relations in 2020.

According to Reuters, Israel agreed to supply the UAE with the Rafael-produced Spyder interceptor missiles.

The Spyder missiles can be launched from vehicle-mounted platforms and are used against short- and long-range projectiles.

Second, gaining Israel's support for the purchase of American super-advanced weapons.

In the Trump administration's final months, the U.S. and the UAE negotiated a deal including up to 50 F-35 fighter jets, 18 MQ-9 reaper drones, and nearly

# UAE & Israel; normalization or revelation?



\$10 billion in advanced munitions produced by Lockheed Martin, General Atomics, and Raytheon.

This landmark deal would have made the UAE the first Arab state to procure both the F-35s and MQ-9s.

Israel is the only regime in the region that can be the gate of advanced US military weapons to other countries.

India's military cooperation with the Zionist regime in the past years to obtain advanced American military weapons is one of these types of cooperation.

For years, the United States has refrained from selling advanced military weapons to the Arab countries under the pretext of maintaining Israel's military superiority, and the UAE wanted to end this approach by Washington and Tel Aviv's fear with Abraham Accords, but it seems that the UAE has not so far reached its desired result.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz wrote in an article on September 13, 2022: "On the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords, one of the key side deals attached to Israel's normalization with the Arab world has yet to come to fruition: the sale of advanced fighter aircraft to the United Arab Emirates."

The deal has been essentially stuck since December due to concerns over Israel's qualitative military edge and the Persian Gulf state's ties with China.

### Israel's educational goals in UAE

As we said above, the Abraham Accords is more than a mere diplomatic relationship. In addition to political, defense, and security areas, the deal has also developed in cultural field.

If the normalization process does not proceed in a basic way, it is possible that after a few generations, future generations in Arab countries will return to the starting point and declare

their opposition to Israel.

For that reason, today Israel, or in other words, the thought of international Zionism, aims to follow the influence wider and deeper than a political agreement, and that is to establish cultural links between the new generation in Islamic countries with the ideals of international Zionism. And the way to establish this cultural link is the view of the new and future generation of Muslims in Arab countries to the not-very-accurate history of the Jews in their teachings.

### Holocaust education in UAE schools

One of the most important topics for international Zionism is the Holocaust and its education to all human beings.

The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, refers to the alleged killing of six million Jews in Nazi concentration camps.

The UAE's Education Ministry is reportedly developing the new Holocaust curricula, which will be taught to children in both primary and secondary schools.

The UAE also set up the region's first Holocaust memorial exhibition in Dubai.

The UAE embassy in the United States issued a statement on Jan 8 saying: From now on, the subject of the Holocaust will be taught in the educational subjects of elementary and middle schools in the United Arab Emirates.

In this report published under the title "Jewish History for the Children of the UAE", Yediot Aharonot wrote: Recently, a delegation from the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the UAE visited the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem and asked the Israeli authorities to assist issues related to education of the Holocaust in the schools.

Yediot Aharonot said: The decision of the UAE is a historic and very important event, in the context of the culture based on Holocaust denial in most Arab

countries.

Denial of the Holocaust is an accusation that Zionists make against those who question its authenticity.

Historians who questioned the number of Jews killed in World War II and the ways of killing recorded in the history books were called Holocaust deniers.

The propaganda of international Zionism called the late French historian Robert Faurisson, who had done a lot of research and questioned many data, as a great denier of the Holocaust, while he considered himself a revisionist and said "Being a big denier is better than being a big liar".

The ground should be prepared in such a way that an Arab and Muslim in the Middle East instead of placing the Quran on their niche, and wearing a keffiyeh, should put a Menorah Candle Holder on the niche and a yarmulke hat on their head. Children, from their bottom of their hearts, should learn from of Jewish history and what happened to the Jews in Warsaw Ghetto, the Auschwitz camp, and the German Kristallnacht. A story that many of them were created by the Jews themselves, and because of this, Traitor Jews were executed by their coreligionist after the war.

Yes, the future generation of Muslims should learn teachings that are full of lies and distortions instead of reading the sad history of the Palestinian nation and their killing by Zionist terror squads.

At the end

Abir Bassam, a Lebanese journalist, says, "We live a series of historical betrayals since the Arab revolution in 1916. The British betrayal brought the Saudi clan into power. Compromises brought the other monarchies in the (Persian) Gulf countries. Even more, betrayals were enforced on the Arabs by their own leaders in Camp David."

"Yes, it is historical foolishness what the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has done by signing Abraham's Accord on the 13th of August 2020 and supporting politically dying leaders. The first is Donald Trump, and the second is Benjamin Netanyahu. However, what the UAE did was expected. Military cooperation between the Emirates and Israel is at its peak for years now," she added in her article published in Tehran Times.

In this atmosphere, meetings had been activated. Grammy Wood revealed in "the Atlantic" that secret meetings have been going for years. The U.S. departments were leading the talks through private and personal channels. The discussions were personally held between Kushner from one side and Prince Muhammad bin Salman of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed of the UAE on the other.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Sweden says cannot fulfil Turkey's demands for NATO application

Sweden is confident that Turkey will approve its application to join the NATO military alliance, but it will not meet all the conditions that Ankara has set for its support, Sweden's prime minister has said.

"Turkey both confirms that we have done what we said we would do, but they also say that they want things that we cannot or do not want to give them," Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on Sunday during a security conference.

Finland and Sweden signed a three-way agreement with Turkey in 2022 aimed at overcoming Ankara's objections to their membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The two Nordic countries applied to join the military alliance in May as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. But Turkey has shared its objections to their membership and accused the countries of harbouring Kurdish rebels.

It refused to approve their membership until both countries take the requested steps, including joining Turkey to fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is designated as a "terrorist" group by the United States and the European Union.

Sweden has robust ties with the Kurdish diaspora, which has been a clashing point between the countries. Turkey is also requesting the extradition of people that Turkey regards as "terrorists".

In December, Sweden's Supreme Court blocked the extradition of exiled Turkish journalist Bulent Kenes, which is a key demand by Ankara to ratify Stockholm's NATO membership. Turkey has accused Kenes of being involved in a 2016 attempt to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a coup.

### Israel orders police to remove Palestine flags from public spaces

Israel's new far-right Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir has instructed police to remove Palestinian flags from public spaces, calling the Palestinian national symbol an act of "terrorism".

Israeli law does not outlaw Palestinian flags but police and soldiers have the right to remove them in cases where they deem there is a threat to public order.

Sunday's directive from Ben-Gvir, who heads the ultranationalist Jewish Power party in Benjamin Netanyahu's new far-right government and as national security minister oversees the police, appears to signal a hardline and uncompromising attitude towards Palestinian expressions of identity and free speech and pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

The display of the Palestinian flag in Israel

has, in practice, long been clamped down on by Israeli authorities, with Palestinians regarding such moves as an attempt to suppress Palestinian identity.

Ben-Gvir's orders came after a mass anti-government protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday, where some demonstrators waved the Palestinian flag.

Protesters labelled the recently sworn-in government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "fascist" and advocated for equality and coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis.

Writing on Twitter, Netanyahu on Sunday said the presence of the Palestinian flag at the Tel Aviv protest was "wild incitement".

Ben-Gvir's directive also follows the release last week of a long-serving Palestinian prisoner, convicted of kidnapping and killing an Israeli soldier in 1983, who waved a Palestinian flag while receiving a hero's welcome in his village in northern occupied Palestine.

### China says it carried out more military drills around Taiwan

The latest Chinese drills around Taiwan are the second big military exercises in less than a month.

China's military says it carried out military exercises around the self-ruled island of Taiwan that focused on land and sea assaults, the second such drill in less than a month.

The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command said in a statement late on Sunday that its forces had organised "joint combat readiness patrols and actual combat drills" in the sea and airspace around Taiwan.

The aim of the exercises was to test joint combat capabilities and "resolutely counter the provocative actions of external forces and Taiwan independence separatist forces", Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the command, said in a brief statement.

### Half of Finland opposes establishment of NATO base on Nordic country's soil

About half of Finland's residents do not support the creation of a permanent NATO base on Finnish soil after the Nordic country joins the alliance, according to results of a survey conducted by Finland's MTV channel published on Monday.

According to the poll, 48% of respondents were against creating a military base and deploying a permanent NATO contingent in Finland after it joins the bloc. Some 39% of those polled supported this measure while 13% abstained from answering the question.

According to the TV channel, 49% of Finns support Finland's active participation in the US-led bloc's international activity and joint military operations under its auspices. Some 42% of the respondents think that the Nordic nation should limit itself to issues of its own security.

### Informed source reveals brutal torture of over dozen prisoners inside Bahrain's Jau Prison

An informed source has warned about inhumane conditions at Bahrain's notorious Jau Prison, saying more than a dozen prisoners have been brutally beaten and subjected to various forms of physical torture in the detention center, as the Al Khalifah regime continues to terrorize them one way or another.

Lebanon's Arabic-language Al-Manar television network, citing the unnamed source, reported that officials at the prison, located south of the capital Manama, have viciously beaten up 14 inmates, some of whom have suffered some kind of head injury.

The source expressed hope that the case would go to legal institutions inside and outside of Bahrain, and that prisoner would endure less torments at detention centers across the Persian Gulf kingdom.

Last September, an independent human rights organization raised the alarm over 'inhumane conditions' at Bahrain's Jau Prison, saying prisoners were exposed to various forms of physical and mental torture at the jail.



The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) said officials at the prison had ramped up their repressive measures and harassment of imprisoned political dissidents, including human rights advocate Abdulhadi al-Khawaja.

Khawaja, the former president and co-founder of the BCHR, was arrested and put on trial on April 9, 2011, as part of a campaign of repression by Bahraini authorities following pro-democracy protests in the Persian Gulf kingdom.

He was sentenced on June 22 that year, along with eight other activists, to life imprisonment.

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights further noted that prisoners of conscience at Jau Prison were put on unfair trials, and handed down lengthy jail terms simply on charges of defending their rights and criticizing the policies of the ruling Al Khalifah regime.

It went on to say that prison authorities had lately summoned a number of guards, who used to torture detained activists in the past, to perform their duties in prison cells.

Demonstrations have been held in Bahrain on a regular basis since a popular uprising began in the Arab country in mid-February 2011.

People demand that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama, however, has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any form of dissent.

(Source: Press TV)



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia, January 8, 2023.

## Tarikhaneh marks 100 years on national heritage list



From Page 1 ► The monument, also known as Tarik Khana, combines Sassanian building methods with a straightforward Arab design. An arcade lines the central courtyard, a single bay deep on all but the qibla side where it increases to three bays.

The central aisle on the qibla arcade is wider and taller than the others, a form that presciently indicates the later ubiquitous monumental axis of Persian architecture.

The arcades, recalling Sassanian precedents, are formed of fired brick arches, elliptical and sometimes slightly pointed, and massive circular

brick piers.

Standing together at a distance from the mosque are the remains of a square minaret of uncertain date, possibly part of the original construction period, and a cylindrical minaret from the Seljuk period (1060-1307). The latter is strikingly divided into six zones of ornamentation. Each is rendered in brick with a different geometric pattern.

The prayer hall of a mosque is where the rich and poor, prominent and ordinary people all stand and bow together in the same rows. Women may participate in the prayers, but they must occupy a separate space or chamber in the mosque. No statues, ritual objects, or pictures are used in mosques. The only decorations permitted are inscriptions of Quranic verses and the names of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions.

The ancient city of Damghan was the winter capital of the Parthian monarchs. Situated about 350 kilometers northeast of Tehran, Damghan was once a prosperous city on the Silk Road that connected China to West Asia and Europe.

## Unauthorized diggers arrested in Neyshabur

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities in charge of protecting cultural heritage have recently caught four suspects red-handed while they were illegally conducting excavations in Neyshabur in northeast Iran.

The suspects were arrested during a surprise operation while digging in the village of Nasirabad, Neyshabur county, a provincial police commander said on Monday.

The suspects have been surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial, the commander added.

A history buff's paradise, Neyshabur (also

called "Nishapur") is situated about 70 km west of Mashhad in northeastern Iran.

The city was founded around the 3rd century CE. Narratives say that it derived its name from its alleged founder, the Sasanian king Shapur I.

Neyshabur rose to prominence in the 8th century and was destroyed by invasions and earthquakes in the 13th century.

At its height between the 9th and 13th centuries, Neyshabur had a population of around 100,000 to 200,000 people and a development covering an area of around six square miles.

TEHRAN – The private sector is planning to invest one trillion rials (\$2.5 million) in the UNESCO-registered Bisotun, which embraces giant bas-reliefs and inscriptions of Darius the Great, in the western province of Kermanshah, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The amount of investment is expected to be spent on the development of the tourism infrastructure within the World Heritage site in the near future, IRNA quoted Mohammadreza Soheili as saying on Monday.

Currently, around 250,000 tourists visit this World Heritage site every year, and this number is expected to triple if the investment is made in the creation of new facilities and developing infrastructure, the official added.

Situated some 30 kilometers from Kermanshah, at the foot of the Zagros Mountains, Bisotun was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list on July 13, 2006.

The principal monument of this archaeological site is a massive bas-relief and cuneiform inscription ordered by Darius the Great shortly after he ascended to the throne of the Persian Empire in 521 BC.

The bas-relief portrays Darius



## Private sector to invest \$2.5m in UNESCO-registered Bisotun

holding a bow, as a sign of sovereignty and treading on the chest of a figure who lies on his back before the Achaemenid king. According to legend, the figure represents Gaumata, the Median Magus, and pretender to the throne, whose assassination led to Darius's rise to power.

Below and around the bas-reliefs, there are about 1,200 lines of inscriptions telling the story of the battles Darius waged in 521-520 BC against the governors who attempted to take apart the empire founded by Cyrus.

The inscription is written in three languages. The oldest

is an Elamite text referring to legends describing the king and the rebellions. This is followed by a Babylonian version of similar legends. The last phase of the inscription is particularly important, as it is here that Darius introduced the Old Persian version of his res gestae (things done).

This is the only known monumental text of the Achaemenids to document the re-establishment of the empire by Darius I. It also bears witness to the interchange of influences in the development of monumental art and writing in the region of the Persian Empire. There are also remains from the Median period (8th to 7th centuries BC) as well as from the Achaemenid (6th to 4th centuries BC) and post-Achaemenid periods.

According to the UN cultural body, Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values in the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

The area was on the ancient trade route linking the Iranian high plateau with Mesopotamia and contains remains from prehistoric times to the Median and Achaemenid eras.

## Khatun Bridge: further \$125,000 needed for restoration project

TEHRAN – A project to restore Khatun Bridge, which is located some 30 km from Tehran in an eastward direction, could need further funding due to rising costs and soaring inflation.

The ancient bridge's restoration project may require an extra 50 billion rials (\$125,000), Alborz province's tourism chief said on Monday.

Work on the arch bridge started in early 2021, months after it partially collapsed in December 2020. Media reports said severe rainfall and lack of proper maintenance were key causes behind the collapse of the bridge's deck.

Earlier this year, a ministry official said a budget of \$160,000 is needed for



the restoration of the monument. "The total estimated cost of restoring the arch bridge... will be about fifty billion rials (about \$160,000)," a tourism official said.

Experts believe that the bridge's foundation was constructed during the Seljuk era (1037-1194) while its other sections were thoroughly renovated in the time of Safavids (1501-1736).

Arch bridges have been built since ancient times due to the easy accessibility of stone masonry, which is an appropriate material for sustaining compressive forces. An arch bridge carries loads primarily by compression, which experts on the foundation of both vertical and horizontal forces. Arch foundations must therefore prevent both vertical settling and horizontal sliding. Despite the more complicated foundation design, the structure itself normally requires less material than a beam bridge of the same span.

## Maritime passenger terminals to be prepared for Noruz holiday

TEHRAN – In preparation for Noruz holiday, which will start on March 21, maritime passenger terminals in the north and south of the country will be equipped, an official with the Ports and Maritime Organization has said.

"Noruz holiday will see the necessary preparations for sea travel so that passenger terminals will be updated and equipped for these days as well," Mehdi Farmihani explained on Monday.

In order to make sea routes more attractive to tourists, there are also plans to provide favorable

conditions, the official added.

There will be 2,580 sea vessels operating during the holidays in the areas of the passenger, tourism, and car transport, which have a capacity of 20,000 passengers and approximately 2,500 cars, he noted.

The vessels will travel along routes that have been authorized and specified, he mentioned.

Around seven million sea passengers traveled last Noruz, which is a significant number, without any incidents, he noted.

Over the past couple of

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

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

Back in February, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport

and Urban Development signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop maritime tourism and make the best use of its potential on the southern and northern coasts of the country.

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

## 30 historical monuments restored in North Khorasan

TEHRAN – Some 30 historical structures in North Khorasan province, northeast Iran, were restored during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 8.9 billion rials (\$22,500) was allocated to the restoration projects, Ali Mostofian explained on Monday.

Ostad Public Bathhouse, Safi-Abad Cistern, Mofakham Mansion, and

Sabzeh-Meidan Caravanserai were among the monuments that underwent restoration during the mentioned period, the official added.

Moreover, 30 historical sites and monuments across the province have been inscribed on the national heritage list since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year, he noted.

Local travel insiders believe that traveling in North Khorasan is gaining momentum by degrees, creating

lucrative opportunities for the tourism industry.

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

## 90m people visit Mazandaran in nine months

TEHRAN – The northern province of Mazandaran has recorded some 90 million tourist arrivals since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21, 2022), a local official has said.

However, tourism infrastructure needs to be improved in order to better serve these numbers of tourists, Mehr quoted Ruhollah Solgi as saying on Monday.

This could lead to job creation for the locals and economic prosperity in the region, the official added.

Throughout the year, Mazandaran hosts millions of tourists from all parts of the country due to its many natural sights, such as the forest and the sea.

Sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea, Mazandaran has a rich yet

turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation.

The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company  
IN THE NAME OF GOD

EXTENSION OF INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER IN TWO STEPS  
No. :460138

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE  
10,000 MT UHP Grade Graphite Electrode 600 mm with respective nipples

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Description: UHP Grade Graphite Electrode with respective nipples as per following specification

Bulk Density:	1.65 – 1.75 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Porosity:	21 – 27 %
Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
Specific Resistance:	4.5 – 6.5 μΩm
Bending Strength:	110 – 140 KgF/Cm <sup>2</sup>
Young's Modules:	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
Co-efficient Of Thermal expansion:	0.3 – 1 10 <sup>-6</sup> /°C
<b>Graphite Electrode Dimensions:</b>	
Electrode Diameter:	600 mm
Electrode Length:	2400 mm
<b>Nipple Specification:</b>	
Nipple Diameter:	317.50 mm
Nipple Length:	457.20 mm
Socket Depth:	234.60 mm
Number of Thread:	4 Thread per Inch
Thread Type:	Tapered Thread

INTERESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF: EUR 20 "TWENTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- 1) ACCOUNT No.0100013543943 AT "EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ CENTRAL BRANCH"
- 2) ACCOUNT No.1902-750-4019644-1 AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR Rials 6,000,000,"SIX MILION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- 1) ACCOUNT No.0102513186002 AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"
- 2) ACCOUNT No.0100304453001 AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

AND PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Consumption Material & General Goods Purchasing Department  
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)  
KM 10 AHVAZ – BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD  
P.O.BOX: 1378  
POST CODE: 61397-31398  
AHVAZ – IRAN

Note1: BIDDER SHALL SUBMIT WITH TENDER A BID BOND ISSUED BY AN IRANIAN BANK OR BY A EUROPEAN FIRST CLASS BANK, IN THE AMOUNT OF 240000,000,000 Rial OR 800,000 EUR FOR 10,000 MT GRAPHITE ELECTRODE Dia.600mm AND MAY REDUCED IN PROPORTION WITH THE QUANTITY OF BIDDERS OFFER.

Note2: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO 22<sup>nd</sup>Jan, 2023. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE 12<sup>th</sup>Feb,2023. THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE 14<sup>th</sup>Feb,2023 IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHVAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 3: FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Tel No. : +98 61 3213 6145 / 3213 6190 Fax No. : +98 61 32908130  
Mr.Mohsen Sajadi EMAIL: m.sajadipouya@ksc.ir OR VISIT: http://WWW.KSC.IR

TEHRAN – Iranian Department of Environment Chief Ali Salajeqeh in a meeting with the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Iran Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi emphasized the need to boost regional cooperation in order to tackle environmental problems.

The issue of dust storms has caused harassment to all the people of the region, Salajeqeh said, adding, the problem can be managed with the cooperation of regional countries, Mehr reported on Monday.

He referred to the pollution of joint waterways as one of the main environmental challenges in the region, emphasizing that this problem can be solved through Ropmi (Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Persian Gulf).

Salajeqeh expressed satisfaction with holding the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in the United Arab Emirates next year, saying: "We hope that holding this summit will have good results for the challenge of climate change."

The UAE official for his part highlighted that the preliminary agreement previously signed by the environment chiefs of the two countries should take effect.

In July 2022, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving



## Iran, UAE underscore environmental cooperation in region

extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

Addressing the opening ceremony, President Ebrahim Raisi emphasized that the preservation of the environment is essential and an inevitable priority.

A union or an organization for

environmental cooperation of West Asian countries should be formed to organize the required measures. Also, the establishment of a regional fund for financial support is necessary to achieve the goals of the UN resolutions, he highlighted.

Sand and dust storms (SDSs) have been plaguing the country for several years and have caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said in June 2022 that Iran is really at forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

More than 80 percent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms," she noted.

## 'Future schools' seeks to employ knowledge-based technologies

TEHRAN – The first national event of future schools will be held on Tuesday with the aim of promoting the use of knowledge-based technologies in schools.

The Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools in cooperation with Barekat Foundation has organized the event in line with the current year's slogan set by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

The event will highlight the role of technology in modernizing schools as well as educational and sports spaces.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has approved a special budget to support building schools nationwide.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Education should spend one percent of the revenues of state-run companies and the net profits of banks and private institutions to build schools in deprived areas in line with the goal of promoting educational justice.

Half of the schools across Iran are built with the participation of benefactors, Mohammad Reza Jafari, CEO of the School-Building Donors Association, has said.

About 40,000 donors are active and in-

involved in building schools across the country, he stated, adding, over 49 percent of schools, amounting to 150,000 classrooms, in the country are built with the participation of school-building benefactors.

Construction of sports spaces, libraries, and developing smart schools are among the current needs in school construction, he further highlighted.

School building benefactors have allotted a total of 34 trillion rials (nearly \$85 million) to construct educational spaces across the country over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), ISNA reported.

According to Nasser Ghofli, the director of the Association, 400 school-building charities have been registered in the country so far.

Due to the promotion of the culture of participation in school construction, school-building donors allotted 39 trillion rials last year, compared with 170 billion rials in 1998 when the Association of School-Building Donors was established, Education Minister Yousef Nouri has said.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 1,000 people outside the country.

Since 2017, the government has contributed more than 60 trillion rials to school-build-



ing donors, he added.

The "Brick-by-brick" national plan started in the year 1399 (March 2020 – March 2021), aiming to attract public participation for school construction in deprived areas even by buying a brick.

In December 2022, Reza Asadifar, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology said currently 7882 knowledge-based firms are operating in the country.

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

## Precipitations increase by 43 percent

From page 1 ► Severe drought

Over the previous water year, the rainfall decreased by about 24 percent compared to the long-term average, which marked another year of low rainfall for Iran.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats

Perhaps the first and most im-



portant damage of drought is the weakening of vegetation, which seriously disrupts the wildlife food chain. Iran faces a range of environ-

mental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an "unprecedented drought" and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

## A Look at Iranian Turkmen Clothing

Part 1

Origins of the term Turkmen

The term Turkmen (pronounced as To-ku-mong) was first mentioned in an 8th-century. Some 2,000 years ago, they were living in the east up to the banks of Syr Darya River (Jaxartes River).

Some scholars argue that the term "Turkmen" means Turkish-like or Turkish-like faith. Oghuz tribes were divided into two tribes (Ouch Ogh and Buz Ogh) and 24 clans.

Oghuz Khan was their leader. In Oghuz tribes, women do not wear Bashlaq (scarf). Their houses are similar to contemporary gazebos. Oghuz are tribal and nomadic groups.

Residential places of Turkmen

Some tribes migrated toward southern Russia and some others moved toward Iran. Turkmen are nowadays living within the territories of Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Iranian Turkmen are mainly from Gooklan, Yamut, Tekkeh, and Nakhour clans. Iranian Turkmen are residing in Turkmen Sahara (northeast of Iran), Golestan and Khorasan provinces.

Despite the fact that they have established themselves in different periods of time, they are considered one tribe and enjoy numerous commonalities.

Turkmen fabrics

- Silkworm breeding and silk production
- Women care about silk worms and men gather them from the leaves of mulberry trees.

Silk fabrics

- Arrival of colorful foreign clothes=marginalization of red silk clothes of Turkmen

- Cloth-weaving workshops (Tara): elder Turkmen women are working with these ancient instruments. • In these workshops, silk fabrics are produced with a length of 2.5 up to 5 meters and with width of 30 to 40 centimeters.

- These fabrics have red stripes along with yellow ones.

- Coloring: they use plant-origin colors such as walnut, Rubia tinctorum, and pomegranate skins.

- Nowadays, they also use nonpermanent



chemical colors

Different kinds of clothes

- In order to produce traditional Turkmen clothes, producers use thread, cotton, broadcloth, Termeh, Napeyda, Savsani, Alataw, Tekeh Qermizi, and Sari Takhteh textiles.

- Broadcloth and Termeh textiles: are used for producing coats (Chavit); their made of wool.

- Alataw textile: silk, coat (Chavit), trousers (Yalaq), shirt (Quink).

- Napeyda & Savsani textiles: silk, producing dresses for women

- Tekeh Qermizi: silk, producing shirts and trousers

- Nowadays, foreign textiles, and German silk, crepe and thread fabrics

Clothes of Turkmen women

- In terms of national dressing model: close to Uzbek and Tajiks.

- They have extensive diversity and are associated with a causality and philosophy which are related to the age of the person.

- In northwest of Khorasan and east of Gorgan, some Turkmen clans named Goonan are living who have their own special clothes and decorative items.

- Generally speaking, these clothes are simple but eye-catching in their design.

- They are associated with spectacular decorations.

- Turkmen women are well-known for their expertise in carpet weaving and are considered as top carpet producers in Iran.

By Maryam Mojabi, Sahel Mehrdad

## RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 38

Breeding populations include lesser kestrel (Falco naumanni), black francolin (Francolinus francolinus), white-throated kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis), pied kingfisher (Ceryle rudis), moustached warbler (Acrocephalus melanopogon) and clamorous reed warbler (A. stentoreus).

The great range of habitats within the protected area supports almost the full range of species typical for the montane steppe, pistachio-almond forest, oak forest and wetland systems of the central and southern Zagros mountains, as well as some species more typical of the Persian Gulf coastal wetlands.

Forty-four species of mammals have been recorded in Arjan protected area including wolf (Canis lupus), golden jackal (Canis aureus), red fox (Vulpes vulpes), brown bear (Ursus arctos), striped hyena (Hyaena hyaena), caracal (Lynx caracal), jungle cat (Felis chaus), leopard (Panthera pardus), wild boar (Sus scrofa), goitred

gazelle (Gazella subgutturosa), Persian ibex (Capra hircus aegagrus) and wild sheep (Ovis ammon).

The Persian lion (Panthera leo persica) survived in the area until about 1940.

Factors adversely affecting ecology

Lake Parishan is under considerable threat from various sources, while Dasht-e Arjan remains in reasonably good condition.

Some 20 hectares of marsh at the extreme north-west corner of Lake Parishan were drained for agriculture about 18 years ago.

Elsewhere around this lake, wet meadows have been replaced by cultivated fields which in places extend to the water's edge.

A small area of fish ponds was established on the plains to the west of the lake in the early 1980s, and it is reported that 3 species of carp have been introduced to the lake.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Army to set up five field hospitals nationwide

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army will set up five field hospitals in the country to offer services to COVID-19 patients, IRIB reported on Thursday.

A 120-bed field hospital built by the Army, equipped with advanced medical devices to provide services to the people and medical staff, was inaugurated on April 24 in Isfahan province.

This field hospital is equipped with an ICU ward, ventilators, cardiac monitoring systems, oxygen generators, and resuscitation rooms, which offer services to coronavirus patients.

The Army, as it is present in various fields, can provide significant services to those infected with the pandemic with all its might, Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Army said.

### اعلام ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرائی ارتش در کشور

فرمانده کل ارتش جمهوری اسلامی ایران دستور ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرائی ارتش در کشور را صادر کرد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، امیر سرلشکر عبدالرحیم موسوی تاکید کرد: ارتش همان گونه که در زمینه‌های مختلف حضور داشته می‌تواند با تمام توان خود خدمات قابل توجهی به بیماران کرونایی ارائه دهد.

بیمارستان صحرائی ۱۲۰ تختخوابی ارتش مجهز به دستگاه‌های پیشرفته پزشکی برای ارائه خدمات به مردم و کادر پزشکی، چهارم اردیبهشت در اصفهان راه اندازی شد.

این بیمارستان صحرائی با تمام نیازمندی‌ها از جمله «آی. سی. یو»، ونتیلاتور، مونیتورینگ قلبی، دستگاه اکسیژن ساز، و اتاق احیا به بیماران کرونایی خدمات ارائه می‌دهد.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 9

New cases	135
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,562,060
Total deaths	144,710
New hospitalized patients	54
Patients in critical condition	163
Total recovered patients	7,336,489
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,836,097
Doses of vaccine injected	155,244,017



Loving humanity is second only to having faith in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:12 Evening: 17:29 Dawn: 5:46 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:14 (tomorrow)

## Jami and Sufism

Part 2

It was his wont to hold forth in the Masjed-e Jame' of Herat before and after each of the five daily prayers, and whenever Jami passed by, before his departure for Samarqand, he would remark to his followers: "This is a young man of remarkable talent; I am enchanted by him, and know not how to ensnare him."

After Jami's return, he proclaimed with satisfaction: "Now a royal falcon has fallen into my trap; God has granted me a favor with the company of this young man." The tie thus forged between the two men was soon palpably fortified by Jami's marriage to a granddaughter of Kashghari.

Jami initially submitted himself, however, to austerities of separation from the world so extreme that on his re-emergence he had temporarily forgotten the niceties and forms of social intercourse.

This retreat was intended to serve as a purgative measure, and did not represent a permanent choice; fully in accord with the Naqshbandi principle of khalvat dar anjoman ("solitude within society"), Jami soon resumed involvement in a broad range of social, intellectual and even political activities, in Herat and beyond.

Indeed, while confessing to his own predilection for solitude, he frequently expressed his disdain for those who, under the pretext of piety, sought isolation from their fellows.

Neither did Jami's Sufi initiation bring to an end his endeavors in formal scholarship, the sphere in which he had displayed precocious brilliance in both Herat and Samarqand (nor, it seems, did it free him from the arrogance that frequently accompanies unusual scholarly attainment).

This did not necessarily imply a contradiction, for as Kashefi reports, there were many who believed that "engagement with the path of the Khajegan [the Naqshbandi masters and their immediate predecessors in Transoxiana] reinforces the powers of intellectual and rational perception" (one of his early teachers in Herat, Shahab ad-Din Mohammad Jajarmi, nonetheless expressed dissatisfaction with his recourse to Kashghari).

Also in full conformity with Naqshbandi precepts was Jami's disdain for miraculous visions and feats (karamat); the only such feat worth aspiring to was, he said, to experience a state of intense awareness of God (jazba) in the company of one blessed by Him.

In one respect, however, Jami seems to have dissented from Naqshbandi norms, for he did not advocate exclusive recourse to the silent zekr that had been normative for the order ever since the time of its eponym.

He even discerned in vocal zekr qualities lacking in its silent counterpart, embracing as it does in cyclical fashion the faculties of the imagination (motakhayyela), speech, hearing, and then again the imagination; and he rejected suspicions that its practice partook of hypocrisy.

Another sign of individual preference at variance with Naqshbandi norms was his occasional indulgence in sama, ecstatic circular motion to the accompaniment of music and song, in particular when stimulated by the composition of his romantic masnavi, Yusof o Zoleykha.

Equally important for Jami's practice of Sufism, especially after the death of Kashghari in 1456, were his links with the

already mentioned Naqshbandi shaykh, Khajeh Obaydollah Ahrar, resident in Samarqand, where he wielded considerable influence in the affairs of the Timurid dynasty.

Ahrar was Jami's senior by some twelve years, but the two men appear to have regarded each other as equals, judging by the compliments exchanged between them.

Jami praised Ahrar for his skill in the fluent exposition of Naqshbandi principles, dedicated to him one of his didactic masnavis, the Tohfah al-Ahrar, and lauded him when he died.

For his part, Ahrar would encourage aspirants on the Sufi path to study with Jami. They first met in 1460 when Ahrar came to Herat in order to appeal to Sultan Abu Sa'id for the abolition of a tax, the tamgha, not authorized by the shariah.

More significant and prolonged interaction took place some five years later in Samarqand, Jami having gone there expressly to visit Ahrar.

They spent whole days together for close to six months, engaged in learned and uplifting discourse. Two years later, they met again in Marv, where Ahrar had been invited by Sultan Abu Sa'id; and Ahrar suggested that Jami should join him there.

Their fourth encounter took place in 1479. Ahrar was once again absent from Samarqand, busy with mediating between the warring sons of Abu Sa'id, but ultimately the two men met in Shash (Tashkent) and were able to commune anew without significant disruption.

Much of their time was spent in meaningful and mutual silence, but it was on this occasion that Ahrar was able to help Jami understand certain problematic passages in Ebn al-Arabi's Futuhat.

Jami and Ahrar also corresponded with each other, some of their letters being little more than concise and formulaic expressions of esteem but others recommending their bearers for some form of assistance. Jami also paid public tribute to Ahrar with the encomia he included in the prefatory matter of several of his masnavis.

Jami expounded the fundamental principles of the Naqshbandieh in a brief treatise entitled Sar-reshte-ye Tariq-e Khajegan ("The Quintessence of the Path of the Masters").

He sets forth as the goal of their path "permanent presence with God" (davam-e hozur ma'al-Haqq); once such presence has become fully assimilated, the result is witnessing (moshahedeh), i.e., a witnessing of the divine manifestation in all things.

The paths to this goal are threefold: ceaseless and silent zekr, accomplished in such fashion that one seated next to the person engaged in it would be unaware of his state; tawajjoh, interpreted in this context to mean orientation to the heart as the locus of a divine presence resulting from zekr; and rabeteh, a constant state of inward attachment to the spiritual guide.

The attribution to Jami of another, somewhat longer treatise on the Naqshbandieh, is uncertain, for no mention of it occurs in lists of his writings drawn up by contemporaries, and it seems to rest on little more than the citation of a line of his verse at the very end of the work.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued.

# 2023 Jalal Literary Awards finalists unveiled

"Sur" illustrates connections between Quds and Karbala by recounting the story of an old Palestinian man who attends an Arbaeen gathering. The novel also provides a deep insight into the condition of the Islamic world between the lines due to the turbulent history of Palestine.

In "Azrael: Veteran", Major Hamidreza Hedayati is tracking the enigmatic murderer Ali Alizadeh on a mission from Tehran to Nicosia in Cyprus.

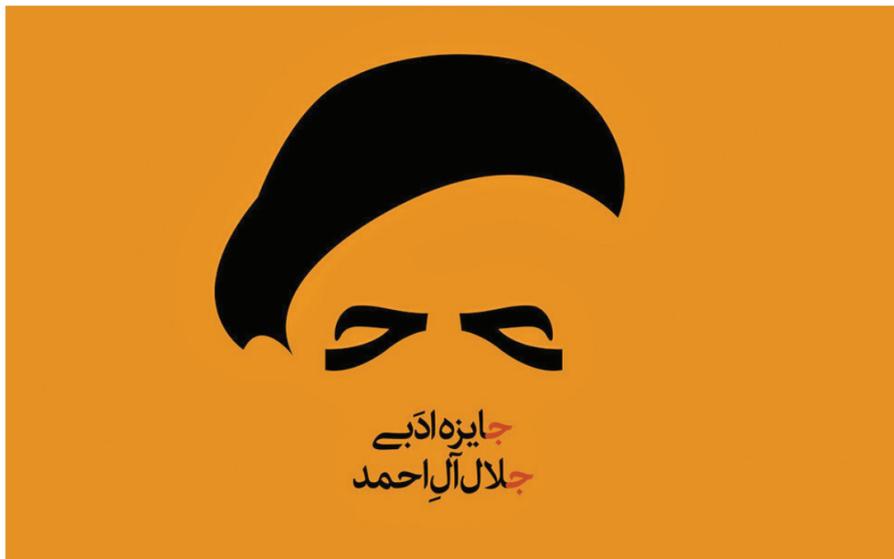
The award worth 2.5 billion rials (about \$6,250 based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = 400,000 rials) is Iran's most lucrative literary prize.

Winners of honorable mentions each will be awarded 500 million rials.

Finalists in the short story section are "The President's Driver and Several Other Stories" by Salman Kadivar, "The Unmarked Grave and Several Other Stories" by Emad Ebadi and "Lover Virus" by Majid Rahmani.

The nominees in this category were selected by a jury composed of Hadi Khorshahian, Yusef Qoajaq and Mohammad-Ali Rokni.

Five books are competing for the award in the documentation



A poster for the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards.

category. The nominees have been picked by Behnaz Zarrabizadeh, Mehdi Kamus and Gol-Ali Babai.

The books are "This Is Syria: Women Are Talking about the War" by Zohreh Yazdanpanah, "Autumn Arrived" by Golestan Jafarian, "Political Organization of the Baha'i Faith" by Hamidreza Esmaeili, "Aqeela" by Elham Amin

and "The Battle of the Straits" by Mostafa Rahimi.

A jury comprising Abolfazl Horri, Mahmud Bashiri and Javad Kamvar-Bakhshayesh chose the nominees in the literary review category.

The nominees are "Watching Narrative: Analytical Study of the Method to Transform Story Elements from Narration to

Drama" by Majid Aqai, "Literary Self-Criticism: A Treatise in Self-Criticism in Literary Studies" by Mehrdad Nosrati and "An Introduction to Comparative Literature: Origins, Theoretical Principles, Challenges" by Mansur Pirani.

The Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards will be held at Vahdat Hall on January 14.

## Iranian shorts to compete in Clermont-Ferrand filmfest



A poster for "Our Photo Memento" directed by Samaneh Lashgari.

TEHRAN – Four shorts by Iranian filmmakers will compete in the 35th Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, which will take place from January 27 to February 4 in the central French city.

"Aban", a co-production between Iran and France by Abbas Taheri and Mahdieh Tusi, and "48 Hours" by Azadeh Musavi have been selected to be screened in the fiction film category.

## David Wood's "Papertown Paperchase" comes to Tehran theater

TEHRAN – Children's musical play "The Papertown Paperchase" by English writer David Wood went on stage at Tehran's Honar Hall on Sunday.

Mohammadreza Shahmardi is the director of the play which is being performed by a group of actors and puppeteers, including Fatemeh Khoshokhan, Majid Zand, Ali Abedi and Gandom Lotfi.

Hossein Fadai-Hossein is the translator of the play originally published in 1976.

In this play, the Salamander, a sort of dragon, is in trouble with the Fire Flies, because he is unable to create a fire by breathing on a pile of sticks.



A poster for the children's play "The Papertown Paperchase" by David Wood.

To redeem himself he is sent on a mission to burn down Papertown.

The paper inhabitants, including the Papertown Crier

(a newspaper), the Postman (an envelope), Professor Paperback (a book who runs the bookshop), Mr. Quid (a pound note who is the Bank Manager) and Lady Carrier Bag – gather their resources to meet the threat.

Spike the Pen (the litter collector), Fireman Silver, and even the cheeky Litterbug become involved, and the two petty criminals, Blotch and Carbon, are released to join the forces.

In the end, Salamander, who has fallen for timid little Tishoo, joins the paper people in thwarting the Fire Flies, and Papertown is saved from destruction.

The play was first produced by the Worcester Repertory Company at the Swan Theatre, Worcester for Christmas 1972. Numerous amateur productions and a puppet version have followed.

In a rewritten version, Whirligig Theatre presented the play at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, and went on tour in 1984.

Wood writes, "I had always felt that the original version was too long, and welcomed the opportunity to rewrite the play and direct it for the Whirligig Theatre production. It proved to be a spectacular success, with riotous audience participation."

## Iranian bookstores offering "Traditional Chinese Medicine"

TEHRAN – "Traditional Chinese Medicine" by Liao Yuqun has been published in Persian by the Qoqunus publishing house in Tehran.

Changji Ma is the translator of the book originally published by China Intercontinental Press in 2006.

Traditional Chinese medicine is one of the most renowned and controversial scientific achievements of ancient Chinese civilization.

Although Western medicine is often the basic method used to deal with medical problems, the techniques developed in traditional Chinese medicine still play an important part in protecting the health of the Chinese people and are practiced throughout the world.

Liao Yuqun provides a comprehensive, illustrated introduction to the history and theory of traditional Chinese medicine,

exploring classical medical texts, diagnostic methods, the use of medical herbs and techniques such as acupuncture.

The book gives an accessible introduction to the history, development and practice of traditional Chinese medicine, and full-color illustrations support the discussion throughout.

It has been written by a Chinese expert whose work is not widely available outside of China.

Yuqun is a researcher and director of the Institute for the History of Natural Science at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and vice-president of the Chinese Society of the History of Science and Technology.

He has published widely on the history of Chinese medicine and classical Chinese medical texts.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Liao Yuqun's book "Traditional Chinese Medicine".