

Soldier Negotiator Expert Spy

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Report

Their crime is that they took documents home

Classified and confidential information is very sensitive in any country. And any country that has an international position has a higher sensitivity of documents, and the smallest change in this regard can turn into a scandal first and then into a crisis if it continues.

The United States is the most powerful country in the world in terms of economy, military, and, of course, intelligence.

Based on this, American intelligence and security agencies monitor every matter related to the circulation of confidential information and documents, and the wrongdoer in any position should be held accountable.

In the past, we have seen many cases where US national security information has turned into a big challenge for individuals and officials who have been negligent in maintaining it.

If we pass over the case of Jonathan Pollard, whose case was related to the espionage of a member of the US Navy for Israel, Martin Indyk, one of the veteran American diplomats and the former ambassador of the country to Israel, was one of these people who, due to some negligence in preserving top secret information got into trouble and was kept a distance from the position it had in political circles in Washington. ▶ Page 5

Police ‘George Floyd’ cousin of Black Lives Matter founder

A cousin of the Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors died hours after he was repeatedly tasered and restrained in the street by Los Angeles police.

Keenan Anderson, 31, a teacher and father, died at a hospital in Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) have released body camera footage of the January 3 encounter.

It shows Mr. Anderson begging for help as officers hold him down.

The police who tasered Mr. Anderson were called to a traffic accident in the Venice neighbourhood of Los Angeles at around 15:00 local time.

Police chief Michel Moore told a news conference on Wednesday that Mr. Anderson had committed a felony hit-and-run in a traffic collision. ▶ Page 5

Opinion

VAR needed ‘more than ever’ now

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – A football match in Iran, once again, became controversial. Tractor were knocked out of Iran's Hazfi Cup by Esteghlal on Thursday, however the visiting team believe that the referees' decisions went against them.

Tractor were 1-0 up in the first extra time but the referee awarded a penalty to Esteghlal in the second extra time. The Blues were awarded the second penalty once again before the final whistle.

Tractor defender Hadi Mohammadi was also shown a red card due to unsporting behavior toward the assistant referee. ▶ Page 3



Iran FM says ties with Syria are at best condition

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian paid a visit to Damascus on Saturday to hold talks with senior Syrian authorities, including President Bashar Al-Assad.

His tour to Syria kicked off as he finished his visit to Lebanon.

Amir Abdollahian talks centered around bilateral relationship, joint interests as well as regional and global developments.

At the Damascus International Airport on Saturday, he was welcomed by his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad.

Ali Asghar Khaji, senior adviser for special political affairs to the Iranian foreign minister; Nasser Kanaani, the Foreign Ministry spokesman; and Mahdi Shoushtari, the special assistant to the foreign minister were accompanying Amir Abdollahian. ▶ Page 2

Capacity of Iran's maritime fleet rises 190,000 tons in 2022: UNCTAD

TEHRAN - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in its latest Review of Maritime Transport report dubbed "Navigating Stormy Waters", has said the capacity of Iran's maritime fleet has increased by one percent or 190,000 tons in 2022.

In 2021, the capacity of the Iranian shipping fleet was estimated to be 19.251 million tons.

The report has put the total number of the country's fleet at 255 with a total capacity of 19,441,051 tons at the end of 2022.

In 2021, Iran's maritime trade fleet had received eight new vessels, and in 2022, one more ship was added to the country's fleet, thus bringing the number to 255.

Based on the report, in 2022, Iran has maintained its position as the owner of the world's 22nd-biggest maritime fleet in terms of capacity.

The UNCTAD data indicates that the Iranian shipping fleet accounts for 0.89 percent of the world's total shipping capacity. ▶ Page 4

Health sector sees 29% growth in budget

TEHRAN - The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has increased the health sector's budget by 29 percent compared to the current year's budget.

The bill has proposed a budget of 2,730 trillion rials (about \$6.8 billion) for the Ministry of Health, IRNA reported.

The administration has also proposed 690 trillion rials (about \$1.7 billion) as subsidies to provide medicine by health industries.

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the administration's draft of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, to the Majlis on Wednesday.

The proposed budget amounted to about 52.616 quadrillion rials (about \$131 billion), with a 40 percent rise from the current year's budget. ▶ Page 7

220 Iranian hospitals have medical tourism licenses

TEHRAN – A total of 220 hospitals have been granted special licenses for medical tourism, Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said on Friday.

"Currently, 220 hospitals in the country have obtained health tourism permits and can accept foreign tourists for treatment," Einollahi told reporters.

The number of international travelers seeking medical services in the Islamic Republic rose

200 percent in the first half of the current Iranian year in comparison to the same period before the coronavirus era, a tourism official said earlier this year.

Based on available data, the Islamic Republic attracted more than 125,000 international patients who received medical services during the first quarter of the current Persian calendar year. The majority of those travelers came from

Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Persian Gulf littoral states.

The ancient country is primarily visited by medical tourists seeking to undergo cosmetic surgery, according to Diako Abbasi, who presides over the health tourism organization. In addition, international patients typically choose Iran for organ transplants, ophthalmology, and infertility treatment, he said. ▶ Page 6

From Inside

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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.

Freedom of speech in the West is just a claim

Etemad writes about the West's double-standard approach in terms of freedom of speech. ▶ Page 2

Iranian Army using drones equipped with smart weapons

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian Army official has said that the Army uses drones equipped with smart weapons to strike distant targets.

The official, Mehdi Hadian, who is deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force, said the Army has boosted its combat capabilities by using drones that are equipped with smart and precision-guided weapons.

"In the combat organization of the Army Air Force, the use of UAV capabilities has a significant place. Especially, these systems have successfully performed combined operations with the Air Force fighters and have shown significant functions in the designed missions," he said, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

He added, "In general, the implementation of combined operations has played a major role in improving the combat power of the Air Force. UAV systems, while collecting information and providing appropriate electronic warfare functions, ▶ Page 3

Movies from Iran to compete in Big Sky documentary festival

TEHRAN – Five Iranian movies will compete in the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, which will take place from February 17 to 26 in Missoula, Montana.

"Kak Iraj" by Jamshid Farajvand, "Water, Wind, Dust, Bread" by Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari, "Adam and Eve" by Saeed Tajiri Farouky, "The Dream of a Horse" by Marjan Khosravi and "Giselou" by Mohammad-Sadeq Esmaeili will be screened in different sections of the festival.

The short documentary "Kak Iraj" is about the part gardener and part artist, Kak Iraj, who makes all his tools from discarded materials. Living off the grid in a house made of stone, dirt, and old televisions he scours the land for useful detritus to maintain his impressive garden. Following him over the shifting seasons of a year Kak Iraj examines an unconventional lifestyle in a desolate and remote region of Iran. ▶ Page 8



Persian calligraphy festival held nationwide to celebrate Women's Day
A woman creates an artwork during the Mashq-e Madar Calligraphy Festival at the Qazvin branch of the Art Bureau on January 13, 2023.

Producing calligraphy works on mothers, the festival was organized nationwide by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization to celebrate the birthday of Hazrat Fatima (SA). The birthday of the Prophet Muhammad's daughter is marked as Women's Day in Iran every year

TEHRAN PAPERS

Freedom of speech in the West is just a claim

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

from page 1 ► “If a person in a corner of the world makes a critical statement about the Holocaust and calls into question the existing and also the official story, suddenly all the media and influential people of the West put him under the most severe destructive and sanctions pressures, etc.,” the newspaper wrote.

But on the other hand, the pro-reform newspaper added, when people or Western media outlets “insult our beliefs or national and religious figures of Muslims, they will say that it is freedom of expression.”

Iran: Grossi should take an impartial approach

The Iran newspaper refers to the request of the IAEA's director general to travel to Tehran and writes: “During his previous visit, Grossi accepted Tehran's proposal to fully close allegations against Tehran, but after that, under the pressure of the U.S., E3, and Israel forgot and violated his commitments.

Since Iran had fully cooperated to disprove the accusations, in case of verification both in terms of sampling and data analysis and in the field of access to solve the cases, the IAEA's director general should have declared the Iran case as closed. So, if Iran allows Grossi to travel, he should take an impartial approach and avoid making new excuses.”

In remarks on Thursday, Grossi expressed hope to visit Iran soon.

“I hope I can go to Tehran. I always say that the Agency is a place of agreement, a space, a platform for mutual understanding. So I am ready to travel and start again, if possible, as soon as possible,” Grossi said in an interview with Vatican Media.

Hamshahri: 30 enemy miscalculations

Hamshahri has addressed the recent speech of the Leader of the Revolution and his reference to the enemy's miscalculations in the recent riots.

The author mentioned 30 cases of the enemy's miscalculations, some of which are:

- They thought that by putting pressure on the officials and politicians of Western countries and threatening Iran, the authorities of the Islamic Re-

public would become passive.

- They thought that the judiciary would give up under pressure for executions and legal punishment.

- They thought that by killing and threatening religious people and Basiji, Iran will be afraid.

- They thought that Iran's Bazaars would be closed by threats and intimidation.

Arman-e Emrooz: Tehran is skeptical about IAEA

Arman-e Emrooz writes about Grossi's possible trip to Tehran and believes that one should be cautious about the results of the visit.

It says: “The Western side of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), believes that after the nuclear deal Safeguards issues can be discussed separately between Iran and the IAEA, so Safeguards issues has nothing to do with returning the parties to the JCPOA.

What made Iran pessimistic about these statements was the US and EU actions and behaviors regarding the issues between Iran and the IAEA.

Based on the 2015 agreement, the PMD between Tehran and the IAEA was closed forever, but later due to Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA and Israel's pressures and lobbies, the ground was set for raising new issues.

On November 17, 2021, the United States, France, Britain, and Germany submitted a resolution to the board of governors of the IAEA, accusing Iran of not cooperating with the agency.”

Arman-e Melli: Some try to link Shamkhani to Akbari

Arman-e Melli has claimed that some people are looking to link Alireza Akbari – a former deputy defense minister who spied for Britain and was executed in recent days – to Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the National Security Council.

With these accusations, they are trying to provide the ground for dismissal of the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council from his position, the daily wrote without presenting any evidence.

from page 1 ► The most recent regional developments and bilateral relations were discussed by the two parties.

In a press conference with his Syrian counterpart, Amir Abdollahian said that relations between Tehran and Damascus are at their best condition.

He also said the will of the officials of the two countries is to upgrade economic, commercial and political ties.

For his part, Mekdad said if Syria had not had an ally like Iran, it would not have been clear what would happen to Syria.

Iran was fully helping Syria in the fight against terrorist groups, including Daesh.

Mekdad also said the two countries seek to develop ties to counter the Western sanctions.

Meeting with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah “important and essential”

While in Beirut, Amir Abdollahian met Lebanon's prime minister, foreign minister, parliament speaker, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ziyad al-Nakhalah.

In a tweet on Friday night, Amir Abdollahian asserted that he conducted “important and essential negotiations” with the Hezbollah chief.

“The resistance is undoubtedly in its best condition in order to ensure regional security maximally,” the top diplomat noted.

“Iran, Saudi Arabia to open consulates in Jedda, Mashhad”

Amir Abdollahian also said on Friday the reopening of the general consular offices of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Jedda and Mashhad would hopefully be the first step towards the restoration of relations between the two countries.

So far Iraq had hosted five rounds of negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties.

In a press conference with his Lebanese counterpart, Amir Abdollahian said that reopening

Iran FM says ties with Syria are at best condition

Amir Abdollahian meets senior Syrian officials



of the consular offices will provide services to Iranian citizens who travel to Mecca and Medina for Hajj pilgrimage.

He also said that both countries concurred that talks to repair relations should continue.

Amir Abdollahian asserted that although the Saudi side is not yet prepared to reestablish regular relations with Iran, the Islamic Republic is both prepared and really eager to do so.

“We think if the other side would have a genuine will, normalization of ties will take place in the near future,” the Iranian foreign minister remarked.

When asked about Saudi Arabia's involvement in the most recent uprising in Iran, he responded, “Parallel to the politics with the Saudis, security conversations, too, were held and the issues would be assessed by both parties.”

On his conversations with Nasrallah, he said, “In my meeting with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, we spoke about a range of issues, including Palestine, and from what I understood from my talks with Hezbollah and the Islamic Jihad chiefs, I can say aloud that the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, and Palestine are now in their best condition.”

“The U.S. and Europe took advantage of the incident of the death of an Iranian girl to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran, but they did not respond at all to the clear murder of Shireen Abu Akleh, the Palestinian reporter, by the Zionist regime,” Amir Abdollahian continued.

The foreign minister also spoke on nuclear discussions with the world powers to end the sanctions as well, saying, “We will not change our positions in negotiations to end the sanctions, ... we believe dialogue is the best approach to reach a solution.”

“Our redline is the interest of the Iranian nation,” he said once more.

The Iranian foreign minister added, “Iran is prepared to supply fuel to Lebanon whenever the Lebanese government would express their willingness to receive it.”

Amir Abdollahian said that first paperwork has been completed and preparations have been made for selling gas to a European nation as well.

“Iran continues to support Lebanon in hard times”

Amir Abdollahian emphasized that Tehran would remain Bei-

rut's ally in difficult moments and that his country is prepared to work with Lebanon on economic, trade, and energy projects.

He made the comments while speaking with a number of political, cultural, media, academic, and social personalities on Friday night in Beirut.

He also stated that Iran would continue to assist the Afghan people and denounce the terrorist acts committed by Daesh outside that country's Foreign Ministry.

The minister added, “Excluding women from social activities in Afghanistan is against the fundamentals of good Islam.”

“We have not recognized the legitimacy of the current ruling group in Afghanistan, but in some particular cases in order to decrease the problems with which that country is entangled we have established relations with them,” he added.

The senior Iranian diplomat emphasized that the formation of an all-inclusive government made up of all political parties in Afghanistan is the only option to find a solution to the issue.

Iran firm to strengthen ties with Italy: ambassador



TEHRAN- The Iranian ambassador to Italy has stated that Tehran is willing to deepen relations with Italy in all areas.

Mohammad-Reza Sabouri made the comments in his first press briefing at the Iranian embassy in Rome.

Sabouri lamented that certain media outlets lately relied on untrustworthy sources linked with the terrorist MEK group, whose records of atrocities against the Iranian people are clear to Europeans.

It is unfair that while reflecting on Iranian events, the actions of a small number of people are extrapolated to tens of millions of Iranians, while participation of tens of thousands at recent Iranian martyrs' funerals or the anniversary of General Soleimani's assassination are not highlighted, he lamented.

The ambassador stated that Iran is willing to collaborate with Italy in science and technology, as well as to restore commercial connections to its proud history and progress toward joint economic ventures with a fresh vision.

Iran denounces horrific U.S. police killing of black teacher

TEHRAN- Nasser Kanaani, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, issued a statement on Saturday denouncing the American police's murder of a young black teacher.

Kanaani remarked that the video showing the U.S. police's violent killing of Keenan Anderson horrified the world once more, recalling the murder of George Floyd and their prejudice against black people.

Anderson is the cousin of Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

He also denounced the Washington regime's acts of hypocritically meddling in the internal affairs of other nations to further political goals while remaining mute in the face of domestic police brutality against people of color in the U.S.

The top Iranian diplomat condemned the killing

of the young black teacher and highlighted the necessity for the U.S. government to be held accountable for the cruel and careless conduct in order to ensure that future systemic abuses of human rights not occur.

Anderson, Patrisse Cullors's cousin, died in a hospital in Santa Monica, California, after undergoing a heart attack following the incident on January 3 in Los Angeles' Venice district.

Based on the reports, the schoolteacher was frequently tasered and detained by Los Angeles police officers following a car collision.

The local U.S. media reports that during a 13-minute body-cam video that the LAPD published on Wednesday, Anderson is shown pleading for assistance while he is being held down by several cops, one of whom is pressing his full weight and elbow against Anderson's neck.

Raisi trip to Beijing will help implement -25year Iran-China comprehensive plan: Boroujerdi

TEHRAN – Ala'eddin Boroujerdi, chief of the Iran-China Friendship Association, has underlined that the future trip by President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran to China will help speed up the implementation of the 25-year Iran-China Cooperation Plan, IRNA reported on Saturday.

So far, no date has been given about Raisi's visit to China.

Boroujerdi said that the association under his leadership is not satisfied with the current pace of the cooperation plan, urging the two countries' officials to accelerate the process.

The 25-year plan for comprehensive partnership between Iran and China was finalized in March 2021.

“The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran expect that China, as a friendly country with considerable capabilities, to take important steps to enhance ties,” Boroujerdi said, according to the website linked to the friendship assassination.

He urged China to invest in the development projects in Iran to improve the tourism industry in the Islamic nation.

China is the second largest economy in the world.

The implementation of the 25-year cooperation plan can pave the way for carrying out joint ventures in different arenas such as transit, manufacturing, energy, economy, trade, etc. the veteran politician remarked.

Iran-China ties have always been on the rise

Boroujerdi also said since the 1979 Islamic Revolution the trend of ties between Iran and China has been on the rise.

The increase in ties shows the will of the two countries' officials to bolster relationship, he opined.



In view of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation, he suggested, the executive officials in the two countries have a great responsibility to implement it.

There is a great potential for cooperation between the two states in view of China's technological know-how in different industries, including building high-speed trains, electric vehicles, solar plants, as well as its recent high-tech progress in manufacturing passenger plans, Boroujerdi stated.

Iran's abundant transit potential provides unique opportunity for BRI

The former deputy foreign minister for Asia and the Pacific region went on to say that Iran's great transit capacities provides a unique opportunity in line with implementing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project.

For example, Boroujerdi said, Makran coasts in southeast Iran can greatly help the advance the BRI project.

Iran's long coasts in Makran border the Sea of Oman.

He said development of railways from Iran's south to the north, and from east to the west, will provide access to great markets in Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Iran is a safe and important transit route

for the BRI project, he added.

China's move in opening consulate in Badar Abbas shows will to strengthen ties

The former diplomat went on to say the fact that China has officially opened a consular office in the Iranian port city of Badar Abbs shows that Beijing is firm to solidify its relations with Iran.

Since Bandar Abbas is located on the shores of the Persian Gulf it is a “very important” port, he pointed out.

Iran's sensitivity to its islands not less than China's to Taiwan

He also said during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia last month in which the sides issued a joint statement which part of it was related to three Iranian island in the Persian Gulf and the fake for the Persian Gulf the people in Iran felt unhappy.

In the statement the “Persian Gulf” name was distorted while this name has been registered by the United Nations, Boroujerdi said.

“Our expectation from China as a friendly country and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council is that it does not use fake name for the Persian Gulf,” he insisted.

The chairman of Iran-China Friendship Association said the public opinion in Iran and the government are sensitive toward this issue.

He went on to say that as Taiwan is an “inseparable part” of the motherland China, Iran is also sensitive toward its ownership of the three islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf and it is necessary that China pay serious attention to Iran's ownership of these islands.

Soldier Negotiator Expert Spy

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – “Few men can resist expressing their appetites when they’re making a fantasy about themselves.” This sentence from the 2011 Cold War spy thriller film Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy sums up the story of Alireza Akbari, which came to an end on Saturday.

What did Akbari see in his fantasies? A brand new Porsche? A multi-million, luxurious house in London? Maybe. But what is certain about his case is that he failed to make use of the wealth he accumulated over the years while spying for the UK.

On Saturday, the Iranian Judiciary officially announced the execution of Akbari, who has been convicted of spying on Iran for MI6. Akbari was arrested three years ago and has since been in prison.

In a taped interview aired on Thursday, he touched upon how he was deceived and recruited by the MI6 to launch UK-orchestrated plans and ploys to infiltrate high-profile Iranian figures to obtain sensitive information.

In the video, he confessed that from the outset he was identified by the intelligence agent working in the British embassy in Tehran, saying, “In a diplomatic session, the UK ambassador along with another person approached me for an informal chitchat and then they gave me a card. After a while, I received a phone call from a person who told me the UK ambassador wanted to meet you.”

His first round of contact with MI6 began in 2004 and lasted



until 2009, according to the Judiciary. In this period, he was arrested on charges of spying and then released on bail. The second round began after 2009 when he left Iran for Europe, ultimately settling down in England.

Akbari stated, “They offered me a long-term visa in case of having close contacts with the UK embassy.” He added, “I accepted the offer and paid a visit to embassy to hold talks with the UK ambassador along with another person who I finally found out he was working for the MI6.”

“During the meeting, the MI6 agent got closer to me and said the whole story about the espionage by informing me about how to provide sensitive information to him. I was given a laptop, telling me if you open a page, we can trace you. In other words, they did this because of having a safe kind of communication,” he added.

Iran summoned British Ambassador to Iran Simon

Shercliff hours after the Akbari announcement over “England’s unconventional meddling including in the realm of the national security” of Iran.

The Foreign Ministry said Iran conveyed its protest over “acts of sabotage” that contradict Iran’s national security to the UK.

The ministry said in a statement that Iran obtained solid evidence that the UK set a trap for Akbari to recruit him as a spy. “The British government should be held accountable for establishing unconventional communications leading to an encroachment on the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. And unjustified and mischievous support for a spy agent is not compatible with the claim of relations based on mutual respect,” the statement said.

At the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the British ambassador was told that Iran’s “decisive” action to protect the national security is not dependent on consent of other

governments, including England.

Shercliff was also told that the continuation of such “illegal and criminal actions” is by no means acceptable.

“The Iranian Foreign Ministry official stressed that a decisive action on the part of Iran to safeguard its national security wouldn’t be contingent upon consent of other governments including Britain and said the continuation of such illegal and criminal acts will not be tolerated,” the ministry said.

Observers believe that the Akbari case is important in terms of its consequences and therefore is a big move because it could help Iran bust other moles and elements currently spying for the UK. It also indicated that the Islamic Republic is adamant in hunting down spies. And this, according to observers, makes Iran a terrible terrain for MI6. Because individuals like Akbari, the argument goes, will think twice before getting tempted into spying for the UK. They will brood if it is worth getting themselves sent to the gallows for a brand new car and a luxurious house in London.

The execution of Akbari is the first high-profile case involving charges of spying for the UK. But it may not be the last. Iran could well be working towards identifying other moles and spies connected to the Akbari case. In other words, the Akbari case could be a harbinger of a renewed hunt for new spies. At the end of the day, “there’s a rotten apple, we have to find it.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

VAR needed ‘more than ever’ now

Frome Page 1 ▶ Tractor club have criticized the football federation for the incidents happened in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium.

Regardless of whether they are right or wrong, the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) is needed more than ever to help the referees to make the best possible decisions.

The officials of Iran football federation had already assured to launch VAR system two years ago but they have not yet fulfilled their promise.

The VAR technology was used in Qatar’s World Cup, where the new technology was a system designed to provide automated offside alerts to the video match officials team.

It means the VAR system is progressing ever faster but Iran has not yet implemented the first one.

VAR is needed now ‘more than ever’.

The VAR system is a support tool for officials. The use of video match officials (VMOs) in football was included in the 2018/2019 edition of the Laws of the Game and was successfully used at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Since then, the system has been implemented in over 100 competitions worldwide.

Persepolis forward Diabate returns from injury

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team forward Cheick Diabate has joined the team’s training after several weeks.

He suffered a foot injury three weeks ago and missed Tehran derby.

Now, the Malian striker is eligible for the match against Zob Ahan, slated for Jan. 20.

Diabate is expected to remain an unused substitute since Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi has fielded his team with a young forward namely, Mohammad Omri.

Diabate has suffered injury several times since joining Iran football and the Persepolis coaching staff could keep him on the roster, as the backup to the young forward.

Sardar Azmoun going nowhere: report

TEHRAN – Bayer Leverkusen forward Sardar Azmoun will remain in the Bundesliga side.

The media reports suggested that he had been linked with a move to Roma, Milan and Juventus.

Azmoun will remain at Bayer Leverkusen and the German side is not going to sell the player in January transfer window, numero-diez reported.

The Iranian international forward joined Bayer Leverkusen last year from Russian football team Zenit.

Majid Hosseini scores as Kayserispor beat Sivasspor

TEHRAN – Kayserispor football team defeated Demir Grup Sivasspor 4-1 in the 19th week of the Süper Lig.

Iranian international defender Majid Hosseini opened the scoring for Kayserispor in the 24th minute at the Kadir Has Stadium.

Olivier Michel Kemen made it 2-0 in the 31st minute and Gökhan Sazda?? scored Kayserispor’s third goal.

Robin Yalçın pulled a gola back in the 52nd minute but Kemen scored once again in the 69th minute.

Kayserispor remained in eighth place with 26 points, 16 points behind leaders Galatasaray.

Taremi the best scorer of AFC in 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi became the best goalscorer of 2022 among the players from AFC countries.

The 30-year-old Iranian striker scored 34 goals in all competitions for Porto and five for his national team (including two goals in the World Cup), in total 39, ifffs.com reported.

Japanese sensation Kodai Tanaka also scored 39 goals over his very first year in the professional football, but no one of them at the international area, so he lost the top position in the ranking to Taremi on the tie-breaker.

All goals at top senior level are counted (top national divisions, national cups, official international club tournaments, official games between national teams) from January 1 to December 31, 2022.

Ittihad Kalba eye Sepahan forward Moghanlou

TEHRAN – Emirati football club Ittihad Kalba have shown interest in signing Sepahan forward Shahriyar Moghanlou.

Ittihad Kalba, headed by Iranian coach Farhad Majidi, are going to sign the 28-year-old striker in the January transfer window.

Kalba sit eighth with 17 points in the UAE Pro League, nine points behind Sharjah.

Sepahan are the favorites to win the Iran league and it’s very unlikely that the transfer will happen.

Iran NPC secretary general Tabe lauds sitting volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran National Paralympic Committee (NPC)’s secretary general, Mohammad Tabe, said that the country’s people just want to see the sitting volleyball team wins the title.

“As the people of Brazil always want their football team to be the world champions, our people in Iran also want and expect our men’s sitting volleyball team to remain at the top of this sport in the world,” he said.

Iran are staking a claim to be the best men’s sitting volleyball nation in history but NPC chief Tabe is quick to play down the suggestion and instead points to the work behind the scenes, including a strong domestic league, which has helped turn the national team into serial winners. There are also plans to develop the women’s team.

“The continuous holding of annual national championship competitions and the organization of the league has attracted many athletes,” Tabe said.

“The equipment of sports halls throughout the country and the continuous presence of top players in international events can be considered important factors of this development.

“There is financial support along with a practical approach, government support, media support, and the equal payment of Olympic and Paralympic athletes’ awards, have contributed to the continuation of this success,” he concluded.

Rashid Mazaheri parts ways with Sepahan

TEHRAN – Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri parted company with Sepahan football club by mutual consent.

Mazaheri penned a one-and-a-half-year deal with the Isfahan-based football club in 2022 February but remained an unused substitute in the team.

He replaced Austrian goalkeeper Christopher Knett in Sepahan but failed to meet expectations.

Mazaheri has been reportedly linked with the European clubs.

Sepahan are the favorites to win the Iran Professional League (IPL) in the 2022-23 season.

Iraq to continue mediation between Iran, Saudi Arabia: PM

TEHRAN – Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad al-Sudani has announced the continuation of his country’s efforts to build bridges between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with the Arabic service of DW, al-Sudani revealed that Baghdad continues its efforts to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

“Balanced relations between Iraq and neighboring countries according to the principle of mutual respect, common interests and non-interference in internal affairs is the best approach for us as a government,” he said.

The prime minister added, “Bringing points of view closer between Iran and the countries of the region, including Saudi Arabia, is an approach that the government has followed and continues to follow, and it will contribute to easing tensions in the region, which will reflect on the security of Iraq and the region.”

Al-Sudani said, “We find a response from Iran and Saudi Arabia, and we are continuing with these attempts until we resume the meetings in Baghdad soon.”

The Iraqi prime minister also praised the depth of Tehran-Baghdad relations. “There is a distinguished and positive relationship with Iran,



and what connects the two countries are 1,200 km borders, and religious, cultural and social commonalities, as is the case with Iraq’s relations and its Arab depth,” he noted.

Earlier this month, al-Sudani said Tehran and Baghdad enjoy a historical relationship. “The relationship with Iran is historical, and we have borders that extend for more than 1,200 kilometers, and there are cultural, religious and social commonalities,” he said, according to Iran’s official news agency IRNA.

He added, “Since the changes in 2003, Iran has been a supporter of the Iraqi political process and helped Iraq in the fight against the ISIS terrorist group. Relations are positive and within the framework of cooperation and support management, away from interfering in internal affairs,” IRNA reported.

Force as an undisputed power.”

He pointed out that UAV systems have had a significant impact on the role and performance of the Air Force. “Today, in various bases and operational units of the Air Force, we see the presence of a wide range of UAVs with different capabilities that protect the country’s skies,” he stated.

In August last year, the Iranian

Army held massive drone drills, which lasted for two days and covered all over Iran. The Coordinating Assistant to the Commander of the Iranian Army, Rear Admiral Habibullah Sayyari, announced that during these exercises, modern drones that were produced at the Ministry of Defense in cooperation with knowledgeable companies were tested.



For his part, Ambassador Al Sadeq praised the efforts and interest of the minister of finance towards strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two sides, wishing to continue cooperation and partnership at all levels and areas for the interest of the two neighboring peoples, the statement concluded.

bind Iraq and Iran,” the Iraqi finance ministry said in a statement.

Sami also explained the Iraqi government’s keenness to support and develop the relations to include various fields, especially with regard to financial and economic affairs, according to the statement.

Minister Taif also appreciated the various tireless efforts aimed at enhancing communication and joint coordination between Iraq and the Islamic Republic, which would develop bilateral relations and open new horizons of cooperation between the two sides, the statement added.



The tweet comes against a backdrop of heated debates in Iraq over the fall of the value of the Iraqi currency against the U.S. dollar. Some media outlets have blamed the depreciation of the Iraqi currency on Iran, something that Iran rejects.

Al Sadeq has recently met Iraqi Finance Minister Taif Sami to discuss ways to develop ties between Tehran and Baghdad.

The meeting took place at the Iraqi finance ministry.

“At the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Taif Sami welcomed the ambassador, indicating the depth of the close bilateral relations that

Iranian Army using drones equipped with smart weapons

Frome Page 1 ▶ prepare the environment for the implementation of the Air Force fighter operations in combat conditions.”

The deputy commander said, “In order to improve its combat power, the Army Air Force uses drones equipped with smart and precision-guided weapons to destroy distant targets. Today, UAV systems are used in the Air

Iran continues to support Iraq despite accusations: envoy

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Iraqi Mohammad Kazem Al Sadeq has reiterated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Iraq, despite the efforts of some parties to distort facts and mislead public opinion on the issue of the depreciation of the Iraqi currency against the U.S. dollar.

“The Islamic Republic will remain the primary supporter of Iraq’s development, stability and progress, despite its exposure to false accusations. Accusations aimed at diverting public opinion from the main cause of the dollar price crisis,” Al Sadeq said on Twitter, Al Alam reported on Saturday.

Up to 1,000 tons of chicken meat produced in Golestan province per day

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, on average, about 700 to 1,000 tons of chicken meat is produced and sent to the markets in Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, with the health supervision of veterinary experts.

Ali Kavousi, the head of the province's Veterinary Department, said of the mentioned amount, about 120 tons is consumed inside the province and the rest is sent to Tehran and other provinces.

As announced by an official with Iran's Agriculture Ministry, it is expected that the country's annual chicken meat production reach 2.65 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Hossein Damavandi-Nejad, the deputy minister for livestock products, stated that the production capacity of chicken meat in the country is three million tons and added that the full supply of the country's chicken meat market has been achieved so far.

He also said that egg production is forecast to reach 1.2 million tons in this year, of which 80,000 tons are exported.

"Interventions have caused ups and downs, but we must pay attention to the logic that the system is a system of supply and demand", the



official noted, adding, "Even in addition to fully meeting the domestic needs of poultry, we can respond to the needs of up to 10 million people around the country."

Damavandi-Nejad also pointed out that about nine months have passed since the implementation of the big plan to reform the economic structure, especially in the agricultural sector and the poultry sector of the country, and said: "In the beginning, due to the magnitude of this plan, there were concerns, but with the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, the issue was managed and now production and storage of chicken meat, eggs, and other livestock and agricultural products are in suitable conditions."

Export from Tehran province rises 17% in 9 months on year



TEHRAN – Export from Tehran province increased by 17 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, a provincial official announced.

Mahmoud Seyjani, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said

that commodities worth nearly \$950 million were exported from the province in the nine-month period.

As previously announced by the official, the value of export from Tehran province rose 66.44 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), from its preceding year.

Seyjani said that commodities worth \$1.218 billion were exported from the province in the past year.

He named Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Russia, Turkmenistan, India, China, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Azerbaijan as the main destinations of the products exported from the province in the previous year.

Neighboring countries, India and China imported 69 percent of the exported commodities, the official noted.

Nearly 50,000 tons of red meat produced in a month

TEHRAN- Production of red meat in Iran stood at 49,887 tons in the ninth month of the current Iranian calendar year (November 22-December 21, 2022), showing nine percent fall compared to the same month in the past year.

As reported, the amount of red meat supplied in the official slaughterhouses of the country in the ninth month of this year has also dropped seven percent compared to the eighth month.

Iran is among the leading consumers of red meat in the West Asia region with lamb being the most sought-after.

However, the consumption per person is around a third of what is normally seen in countries like the U.S. and Australia, mainly due to the prohibition of pork in Islamic law.

The major part of Iran's red meat imports comes from countries like Brazil, where Iranian supervisors directly control culling methods to ensure they comply with religious rules.

TEDPIX drops 8,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 8,366 points to 1.643 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 11.47 billion securities worth 66.307 trillion rials (about \$165.7 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 6,343 points, and the second market's index lost 16,175 points.

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

Iranian government has allocated 150 trillion

Capacity of Iran's maritime fleet rises 190,000 tons in 2022: UNCTAD

from page 1 ► UNCTAD has put the total number of the world's commercial ships, including tankers, container ships, and bulk carriers at the end of 2022 at 55,037. The total capacity of the mentioned ships is estimated at 2,180,058,307 tons in 2022, which has increased by two percent over the previous year.

The capacity of Iran's maritime fleet has been greater than three major industrialized countries, namely France, Italy, and Canada; and the U.S., as the world's largest economy, has only three times the maritime trade capacity of Iran. Countries like the Netherlands, Saudi



Arabia, and Brazil also have smaller shipping fleets than Iran.

According to the UNCTAD report, Greece has the largest maritime fleet in the world in terms of cargo-carrying capacity. The capacity of the Greek fleet is 384 million tons. The total number of Greek ships is estimated at 4,870.

Experts believe that having a large maritime fleet has played an important role in Iran's resilience against the U.S. sanctions, and by using this large fleet, the Islamic Republic has been able to neutralize the economic sanctions to a large extent.

TCCIMA warns about gas production-consumption imbalance

TEHRAN – Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Energy Committee has warned about the serious imbalance between the country's natural gas production and consumption in the future.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Reza Padidar emphasized that since South Pars gas field currently accounts for 70 percent of the country's natural gas production, the current trend of consumption and the lack of investment in this field will lead to a severe imbalance between supply and demand in the coming years.

As the TCCIMA portal reported, Iran is currently the third gas-producing country in the world and the second country in terms of natural gas reserves, however, according to official data gas consumption in Iran is also twice as much as in the European Union.

According to Padidar, more than 80 percent of the 870 million cubic meters of gas produced in the country is used by the domestic and commercial sectors during the cold season.

He noted that most of the above-

mentioned consumption is accounted for by high-consuming households that use four to five times more gas than regular consumers.

Stating that the best policy in dealing with such subscribers is to use price reform mechanisms, Padidar said: "An effective tiered pricing policy for high-consuming subscribers is precisely the model that will lead these people to modify their consumption patterns."

He further expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of investment in the country's gas fields, saying: "If investments were made [in the country's fields] according to economic forecasts and plans, of course, the country's oil and gas production would increase significantly and energy exports would also take a more appropriate path. In this context, it should be said that the lack of investments has caused the production of energy carriers, especially natural gas, to be far from what is expected."

South Pars field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

Curbing inflation is CBI's main strategy: governor

TEHRAN – The new governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said curbing inflation would be the main strategy of the bank during his tenure, IRIB reported.

Speaking in a meeting with the country's economic experts and scholars on Saturday, Mohammadreza Farzin said in order to curb inflation, managing the demand for liquidity and money creation would be put on the agenda and the influencing factors on the pricing side will also be controlled as well.

"We will implement an active monetary and banking policy in this regard," Farzin said.

The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on December 21, which marks the end of the ninth Iranian calendar month Azar, at 45 percent, rising one percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the eighth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 48.5 percent in the ninth month,



which means families have paid an average of 48.5 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month,

compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 44.3 percent for the urban households, rising one percent from the previous month, and 48.6 percent for the rural households, increasing 1.2 percent from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar

Next year budget bill allocates \$302.6m to Industry, Mining, Trade Ministry



TEHRAN – The budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has allocated 121.052 trillion rials (about \$302.63 million) to Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

Of the mentioned figure, the share of ministry is 95.225 trillion rials (about \$238.06 million), that of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) is 17.065 trillion rials (about \$42.66 million), 184 billion rials (about \$460,000) is the share of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), share of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) is 400 billion rials (about \$1 million), and that of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) is 3.169 trillion rials (about \$7.92 million).

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the

administration's draft of the national budget bill for the next year to the Majlis on Wednesday.

The president mentioned stable economic growth, people's livelihood, observing justice, and efficiency of the government system as the main approaches of the budget bill and stated: "In this bill, the establishment of a progress and justice fund in all provinces is foreseen so that the development credits of the provinces are paid systematically."

Raisi also said, "We have included the important points considered by the Leader in the general policies of the Seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026) in the drafting of the 1402 budget bill."

As reported, reforming the budget structure, creating transparency, attracting governmental and private sector investments for completing semi-finished projects, and implementing the government's integrated financial management system are highlighted in the budget bill for the next year.

The proposed budget amounted to about 52.616 quadrillion rials (about \$131.54 billion at the free market rate of 400,000 rials), with a 40 percent rise from the current year's budget.

The bill has estimated the government's

budget at 21.64 quadrillion rials (about \$54.1 billion).

Public resources are estimated at 19.84 quadrillion rials (about \$49.6 billion).

The crude oil income is predicted to be 6.03 quadrillion rials (about \$15.075 billion), and oil sales are estimated at 1.4 million barrels per day at an average price of \$85.

Like the current year's budget, the next year's proposed budget requires the government to pay 40 percent of its oil, gas, and gas condensate revenues to National Development Fund (NDF).

Tax revenues are predicted to be 8.386 quadrillion rials (about \$20.965 billion).

The budget bill for the year 1402 is printed and distributed among the members of the parliament after its presentation and they will have 10 days to submit their proposals and reviews on the budget to relevant specialized committees.

Specialized committees will also have 15 days to submit their reviews to the parliament ad hoc budget review committee (known as Talfiq Committee).

Talfiq Committee is a body consisting of MPs from different committees which is established each year to study the national budget bill.

Their crime is that they took documents home



From page 1 ► On September 21, 2000, the Department of State suspended the security clearance of Martin Indyk, the United States Ambassador to Israel, pending the outcome of an investigation of suspected violations of Department of State security standards. Under the regulations, the Department of State was obligated to suspend Ambassador Indyk's security clearance.

Now, if we go through the Snowden case, we will come to another case where a senior American official has been accused of unauthorized access to classified information.

He was none other than former US President Donald Trump, who has been keeping classified documents about some countries in his personal residence in Florida.

In a report on August 10, 2022, the Guardian wrote: Federal investigators searched Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on Monday bearing a warrant that broadly sought presidential and classified records that the Justice Department believed the former president unlawfully retained, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

"The criminal nature of the search warrant executed by FBI agents, as described by the sources, suggested the investigation surrounding

Trump is firmly a criminal probe that comes with potentially far-reaching political and legal ramifications for the former president, the Guardian states.

FBI raid of Trump's estate prompts Republican anger and 2024 speculation

At that time, it was the Democrats who beat the drum of Republicans and Trump's carelessness, but in the last few days, the page has completely turned.

Recently, it was revealed that two batches of classified documents were found near Biden's residence.

The first cache was found at a private office in Washington DC that Mr. Biden used after his vice presidency.

According to BBC, the matter is under review by the Department of Justice.

Former President Donald Trump is facing a criminal investigation for allegedly mishandling classified files.

It was not yet clear on Wednesday when or where the additional tranche of files was found by Biden aides.

The original batch of about 10 documents was discovered in November at the Penn Biden Center, a think tank near the White House, but only came to light this week.

Those papers reportedly

include US intelligence memos and briefing materials related to Ukraine, Iran, and the United Kingdom.

They relate to his time as vice president under President Barack Obama but it is unclear why they turned up in a private office he started using after that.

Access to classified documents is limited by law to people with special authorization and there are rules about how they are kept and stored.

All White House records, including classified ones, are required to be turned over to the US National Archives after an administration's time in office.

The White House has not yet commented on the newly discovered batch. However, the find has been confirmed by the BBC's US partner CBS and other US media.

During her daily press briefing on Wednesday, Biden press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to answer questions about the first cache of files.

"This is under review by the Department of Justice," she said. "I'm not going to go beyond what the president shared yesterday."

She was pressed on why it took two months for the news to be made public and refused to say when Mr. Biden had been briefed on it. The discovery happened

just days before the midterm congressional elections.

Mr. Biden said on Tuesday he was "surprised" when he found out and he was "cooperating" with the Justice Department's review.

But the discovery of another batch of classified documents in a second location increases the possibility that this story is not one of isolated carelessness on the part of Joe Biden and his team, but rather something more systemic. It also increases the chances that this is not the last new revelation of document mishandling.

Discovery of the documents and political implications

The disclosure could intensify skepticism among Republicans and others who are already claiming that politics is the basis for the probes of the former president.

There are also possible ramifications in a new, GOP-controlled Congress where Republicans are promising to launch widespread investigations of Biden's administration.

Of the latest news, new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, said, "I think Congress has to investigate this." Contradicting several fellow members of his party, he added, "We don't think there needs to be a special prosecutor."

The top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, Ohio Rep. Mike Turner, has requested that intelligence agencies conduct a "damage assessment" of potentially classified documents.

In its immediate aftermath, Trump and his supporters seized on the Mar-a-Lago search as a partisan attack from Democrats who had long been desirous of removing him from office.

During his 2024 campaign launch in November, at the same club agents had searched months earlier, Trump referenced the probes against him, casting himself as "a victim" of wayward prosecutors and the "festering, rot and corruption of Washington."

WORLD HEADLINES

Kishida, Biden vow to boost Japan defense capabilities

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and U.S. President Joe Biden pledged Friday to develop the Asian nation's defense capabilities, a month after Tokyo made a major shift in its defense policy.

Kishida, on his first trip to the U.S. capital since he took office in October 2021, and Biden also agreed the two countries will deepen security ties and cooperate to secure semiconductor supply chains to counter China's economic clout in the region.

Biden hailed Japan's decision to bolster its defense capabilities, telling Kishida at the outset of their talks that it was "historic" and the United States is "fully, thoroughly, completely" committed to the bilateral security alliance.

"Rather than figuring out how we can work more closely together, the more difficult job would be trying to figure out where we disagree," Biden added.

The leaders said in a joint statement released after the Japan-U.S. summit, "We emphasize that our basic positions on Taiwan remain unchanged," adding, "We encourage the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues."

Kishida also urged the United States to rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact to establish a "fair economic order" for prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region amid China's rise.

The TPP had originally been signed in February 2016 by 12 countries including Japan and the United States, but a new U.S. administration in 2017 under then President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact to pursue an "America First" economic policy aimed at protecting the domestic job market.

Indonesia deploys warship to monitor China coast guard vessel

Indonesia has deployed a warship to its North Natuna Sea to monitor a Chinese coast guard vessel that has been active in a resource-rich maritime area both countries claim as their own, the head of the country's navy has said.

A warship, maritime patrol plane and drone have been deployed to monitor the Chinese vessel, Laksamana Madya Muhammad Ali, the chief of the Indonesian navy, told the Reuters news agency on Saturday.

"The Chinese vessel has not conducted any suspicious activities. However, we need to monitor it as it has been in Indonesia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) for some time," he said.

Ship tracking data shows the Chinese vessel, CCG 5901, has been sailing in the Natuna Sea and particularly near to Indonesia's Tuna Block gas field and Vietnam's Chim Sao oil and gas field since December 30, the Indonesian Ocean Justice Initiative told Reuters.

Japanese PM betrayed memory of victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Medvedev

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida acted as a US attendant and betrayed the memory of hundreds of thousands of victims of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday.

Medvedev called the joint statement made by Kishida and US President Joe Biden that any potential use of nuclear weapons by Russia in Ukraine will be an irredeemable hostile act against humanity a "horrible shame." Medvedev underscored that he will not "even comment on the paranoia regarding our state's nuclear plans."

"Just think about it. The head of the Japanese government, in his humiliating submissive ecstasy speaks hogwash about Russia, betraying the memory of hundreds of thousands of Japanese nationals, who burned in the nuclear fire of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And Kishida could not care less that the US was the only state who used nuclear weapons. And Kishida's own homeland was the only victim," the official said on his Telegram channel.

According to Medvedev, the Japanese prime minister should have "reminded the US President about that and demand repentance that has not been expressed by the US authorities for this act of war."

"But no. Kishida is only a service staff for the Americans. And servants cannot have courage. The Japanese can only be pitied," Medvedev said. He described a method, which the Japanese leader could have used to "wash off" this shame, but stated his certainty that "the concept of honor is not characteristic for this generation of Japanese vassals."

On Friday, Biden and Kishida held a meeting in Washington, issuing a joint statement afterwards. In particular, the statement mentions further sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine, and states that Russia's potential use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine would be unacceptable.

UK set to supply Ukraine with Challenger 2 tanks, more artillery systems, PM says

The UK government is set to supply Ukraine with a fresh package of lethal military equipment, including heavy battle tanks, despite Russia's warning against fanning the flames of war by sending military supplies to Kiev.

In a telephone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to supply a squadron of Challenger 2 tanks and additional artillery systems, with the first units of armored vehicles to be delivered immediately.

"The prime minister outlined the UK's ambition to intensify our support to Ukraine, including through the provision of Challenger 2 tanks and additional artillery systems," a spokesperson for Sunak said.

British Sun newspaper quoted a Downing Street source earlier yesterday that the group of four Challenger 2 tanks will be delivered immediately, with a further eight following shortly afterward.

Meanwhile, Zelensky welcomed the UK's decision, saying it would "send the right signal" as Kiev has been pressing allies for more heavy weapons.

"In a conversation with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, I thanked (him) for the decisions that will not only strengthen us on the battlefield, but also send the right signal to other partners," Zelensky said on Twitter.

The move makes the UK the first Western power to supply the Ukrainians with main battle tanks.

The Challenger 2, designed and built



by the British company, Vickers Defense Systems, is a battle tank that has been in service with the UK army since 1994. The tank has previously been deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Iraq.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said on Saturday that the UK has committed £2.3 billion in military aid to Ukraine.

Germany mulls sending Western tanks to Kiev

The Ukrainian government has also piled pressure on Germany, which last week said it was sending Marder fighting vehicles to Kiev.

German economy minister also said Berlin cannot rule out the delivery of the Leopard tanks, which are heavier fighting vehicles than the Marders.

According to the Bloomberg news agency, the German federal government is set to announce its decision on the supply of Western tanks to Ukraine next week.

According to Ukrainian Foreign Minister

Dmytro Kuleba, Finland, Poland, and three other countries are ready to transfer Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine but are waiting for Germany's decision.

"The French struck the first, let's say, blow on this wall from a light-wheeled tank... The French are doing great, they took the first step. Then the Poles... But the promise of Leopard is the second such step," the Minister said.

"And I know at least three other countries that are ready to do this, but they don't talk about it yet, because they want to say it out loud only when they are one hundred percent sure that the Germans will come out and say 'we are for it,'" Kuleba added.

The Ukrainian government has long requested the mass-produced, German-made Leopard 2 tanks, used by several European allies.

Germany follows a more cautious approach to equipping Ukraine with weapons than other countries such as the UK and the United States.

Russia started its "special military operation" in Ukraine with the declared aim of "de-Nazifying" the country on February 24, 2022.

Since then, the United States and Europe have imposed waves of unprecedented economic sanctions on Moscow and supplied large consignments of heavy weaponry to Kiev. The Kremlin has time and again warned the sanctions and the Western military assistance will only prolong the war.

(Source: Press TV)



From page 1 ► He said Mr. Anderson had attempted to flee the scene by trying to "get into another person's car without their permission."

Footage shows Mr. Anderson in distress when police arrive, telling the first officer "somebody is trying to kill me", although no visible threat appears on camera.

Initially, Mr. Anderson sits down as directed but as more police arrive he gets up and runs into the street while ignoring requests for him to stop.

When police reach Mr. Anderson and attempt to detain him, he is initially compliant before shouting: "Please" and "help" and "they're trying to George

Floyd me!" - a reference to the May 2020 murder of a black man in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by a policeman.

The stun gun was initially used on Mr. Anderson for about 30 seconds after an officer warned him multiple times to "stop [resisting arrest] or I'm going to tase you". Other officers were holding him down. He was then tasered again for roughly five more seconds.

An ambulance arrived about five minutes after he was tasered, police said, and brought Mr. Anderson to a local hospital. He died about four-and-a-half hours later after going into cardiac arrest, according to police.

220 Iranian hospitals have medical tourism licenses



From Page 1 ► Shiraz, Mashhad, Yazd, Tabriz, Urmia, Ahvaz, Ramsar, Ardabil, Kermanshah, Tehran, Isfahan, and Sanandaj have been the most desired destinations for medical tourists, Abbasi said.

Data compiled by the Health Ministry suggest the Islamic Republic hosts an average of one million medical tourists per annum. Revenues from medical tourism fetched over \$1 billion [per annum] up to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Islamic Republic is known in the world as an affordable destination for health tourism, and the government is making a great effort to attract more medical tourists in the years to come.

Foreign patients are offered affordable yet high-quality medical care in Iran, and the country gains a sizable amount of foreign exchange in the process.

Ardabil holds potential to develop water tourism

TEHRAN – The tourism directorate of the northwestern province of Ardabil seeks to develop water tourism, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The use of water tourism capacities is one of Ardabil's important tourism development strategies, Hassan Mohammadi-Adib explained on Saturday.

Investors in this area of tourism will be welcomed and supported, the official added.

Despite its arid climate, Iran's tourism sector has tried to boost hydro tourism or water tourism in recent years.

This branch of tourism involves traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some individuals who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, dams, oceans, etc.

While water tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming. Travel

When it comes to medical tourism, Iran's strengths are thought to include qualified surgeons and medical professionals, state-of-the-art equipment, high-tech medicine and a variety of specializations, incredibly affordable procedures, and last but not least, its friendly people.

According to experts, in order to promote medical tourism, it is important to acknowledge the strategic medical tourism status of each province in the nation, provide a skilled workforce, offer top-notch services, upgrade infrastructure, and foster a supportive attitude toward authorities who support the medical tourism industry.

Although people also travel for dental or fertility tourism, cosmetic or other types of surgeries account for the majority of medical tourism. It encompasses a broad spectrum of health-oriented travel, from preventive and health-conductive treatments to restorative and curative modes of travel.

About one million medical tourists, mainly from the neighboring countries, arrive in Iran annually, Mohammadreza Tarjoman, who presides over the Health Ministry's tourism office said in April. The country has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).



businesses organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations, such as lakes and rivers. Holidaymakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to whitewater rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

Ancient clay tablet fragments discovered in mosque



TEHRAN – Two pieces of clay tablets have recently been unearthed in Jameh Mosque of Nushabad, in the central district of Aran-Bidgol County, Isfahan province, an Iranian archaeologist said on Saturday.

The discovery of these relics in a monument of the Seljuk era (1037-1194) is extremely significant, as they are mostly found at Sasanid and Parthian sites, said Reza Nuri, who presided over the archaeology excavation.

By cooperating with inscription readers,

it is hoped that the content of these clay inscriptions can be decoded soon, he added.

Seljuks, also spelled Seljuks, were a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in West Asia.

Aran-Bidgol is the gateway to the Maranjab desert and caravansary, which also draws thousands of domestic travelers each year. The desert, which is a top destination for off-readers, leads to salt lake from the north, Band-e Rig and Desert National Park from the east, Masileh Desert, Hoz-e sultan, and Moreh Lakes from the west and eventually Aran and Bidgol from the south.

Situated in Isfahan province, the town is surrounded by desert from the north and east, and thus it has a typical climate of hot and dry in summer, cold and dry in winter, and very little rainfall during the year.

TEHRAN – It takes time for international tourism to gain traction in Iran, the head of the Iranian Hoteliers Association, has said.

Iran needs time to re-establish itself as a destination for foreign tourists, IRNA quoted Jamshid Hamzehzadeh as saying on Saturday.

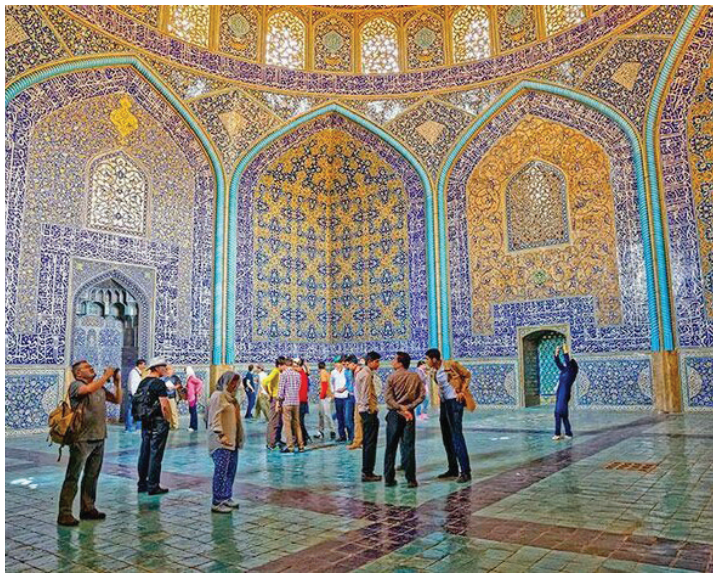
Therefore, domestic tourism is now the primary focus of related organizations, he added.

It has been a difficult time for the tourism and hotel industries in the past few years, either because of natural disasters, political or security concerns, as well as the coronavirus outbreak, which was devastating to this area, he noted.

The priority is to deal with domestic tourism in order to overcome the tourism industry's crisis, he explained.

As far as domestic tourism is concerned, the quality of service is what interests travelers and tourists, he mentioned.

There are several programs carried out throughout the country to improve the quality of hotel services, which are



Foreign tourism rebound requires time, expert says

primarily centered on training and empowerment of the staff, he said.

Moreover, several hotels and accommodation centers across the

30 culinary tourism routes identified in Gilan province

TEHRAN – When it comes to culinary tourism, a total of 30 different travel routes are passing through Gilan, the tourism chief of the northern Iranian province has said.

“30 food tourism routes have been identified across Gilan province,” ISNA quoted Reza Hassanpur as saying on Saturday.

Talking about the importance of gastronomy tourism, he noted: “It is said that getting to know new food may create positive excitement in mankind,” the official said.

He defined food tourism as a social phenomenon that is usually accompanied by a general visit to the steps and methods of food preparation.

“Such a visit may embrace learning about different types of food and drinks, checking the microbiology of edibles, visiting farms for planting and growing vegetable and meat products and how to supply them to the market.”

Discovering connections between routes, local places, and traditional foods is a welcoming experience, the official said.

For this reason, today in many geographical regions, efforts are being made to help attract food tourists by preserving traditional works and texture and linking it with food culture, the official explained.

In 2020, Iran joined an online campaign launched by the UNWTO to promote gastronomy as an essential part of tourism. Iranian cuisine, usually dominated by fragrant herbs, varies from region to region. It principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.

For instance, no Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs. Every table is usually set with sabzi-khordan, a basket of fresh herbs, radishes, and scallions, which are eaten raw and by the handful. Persian cuisine is, above all, about balance — of tastes and flavors,



textures and temperatures.

Experts believe that food tourism has become one of the most dynamic and creative segments of tourism and, at the same time, has naturally positioned itself as an element of diversification of tourism with a high impact on the promotion of sustainable development at the regional and local levels.

Kurd horse's global registration to develop sports tourism in Kermanshah

TEHRAN – Sports tourism in the western province of Kermanshah could benefit from the possible inclusion of the Persian-Kurdish horse on the UNESCO World Heritage list, a provincial tourism official has said.

In the west of the country, the development of sports tourism might be facilitated by completing and registering a dossier for possible global registration of the Kurd horse, Mehdi Khalvandi explained on Saturday.

Furthermore, the horse industry of the western regions of the country could be transformed into a global brand and become more widely recognized and promoted, the official added.

The Kurd horse has always been viewed as a privileged breed due to its superior qualities and long history, but its position in sports and commercial relations has not matched its real potential, he noted.

A lot of benefits can be derived from focusing on the horse industry in Kermanshah province, as it is one of the province's special economic capacities, he mentioned.

Earlier this week, the Persian-Kurdish horse, also known as the Kurd horse, was added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Back in December, the provincial tourism chief Mohammadreza Soheili announced that Iran is developing a dossier for its Persian-Kurdish horse for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Despite the Kurd horse's origin going back to the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, it may be registered internationally because it is also bred in the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey, and Syria, he said.

As part of the process to include Kurd horses on the intangible world heritage list, this dossier is being prepared under the title of knowledge and skill for breeding and keeping

Kurd horses, he noted.

Persian-Kurdish horse constitutes a group of horses traditionally bred and used by Kurdish People who have lived and occupied today's western provinces of Iran for several millennia.

The breed originates from western Iran, where the mountainous topography and moderately cold climate have sculpted a unique horse population resistant to harsh environmental conditions.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, including Taq-e Bostan and the UNESCO-registered Bisotun.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings to divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

country have been restored and renovated and are ready to serve domestic and foreign travelers, he added.

In 2021, ISNA reported that the tourism industry of the country had suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$1.1 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and financial losses.

Panels of travel experts have mapped out new marketing strategies hoping Iran's tourism would get back on its feet once again.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Snow and freezing conditions close museums in 16 provinces

TEHRAN— On Saturday, snow and freezing conditions closed tens of cultural heritage museums and historical sites across 16 Iranian provinces.

The closures were part of a scheme hoped to reduce energy consumption as the country faces a natural gas shortage due to a harsh winter.

The coldness shut museums located in the provinces of East Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Isfahan, Alborz, Tehran, South Khorasan, North Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Semnan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Golestan, Gilan, West Azarbaijan, Qazvin, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, IRNA reported.

One of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC, Iran is home to some 1,000 cultural heritage

museums supervised by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

It also hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments, including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 –330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.



Invitation To The International

Renewed no.2 (Tender No. 1401/12)

Client: Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company (Public Joint Stock)

Tender Subject:

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

Project Address:

Tabas Parvadeh Coal Mines located in 75km southwest Tabas, Iran

Deadline to Inform Readiness to Receive the Documents: Latest

by 13:30 p.m. (IRST) Monday January 23, 2023

Notes:

- Tender documents will solely be delivered to Tenderers who inform the Client of readiness for participating in the Tender process by sending a formal letter with the subject of "tender subject and number"; addressed to Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company

- Client's email address: dabir@tpc.co.ir

Deadline to Submit the Offers: Latest by 10:00 a.m. (IRST) on Monday January 30, 2023

Tender Opening Date: At 11:00 a.m. (IRST) on Monday January 30, 2023

Clean Air Law awaiting national will

TEHRAN – The Clean Air Week started on Saturday with “realization of clean air, public rights, national will” as the slogan.

Air pollution is one of the main concerns of the government; Therefore, all organizations are obliged to act based on the Clean Air Law.

The Clean Air Law, enacted in July 2017, was supposed to be a solution to ease air pollution across the country, but now, the air is severely polluted, as the responsible bodies neglect their legal duties to implement the law.

The law has defined responsibilities for the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, the police, the municipality, the National TV, and some other organizations.

In this regard, according to the three-year plan of the Ministry of Oil, which was presented to the Department of Environment, the amount of sulfur in diesel fuel is supposed to be reduced to a great extent, in order to meet the national standard.



The importance of having clean air is such that a week in the country is named after Clean Air Week.

A total of 1.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$5 billion) is required to implement the Clean Air Law, Department of Environment chief Ali Salajequeh has said.

The first vice president is the chairman of the national working group on air pollution, he noted.

The Department of Environment, as a governing and supervisory body, has determined the duties of the bodies in the implementation of Clean Air Law, he added.

There are two main types of air

pollution sources, mobile sources including cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains, and stationary sources such as oil refineries, industrial facilities, and factories.

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

However, due to severe air pollution in recent days in some metropolises of the country, including Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, Arak, and Tabriz, many experts have emphasized the share of stationary sources in air pollution in these areas because there are signs of non-standard fuel consumption such as Sulfur gasoline

or mazut (a heavy, low-quality fuel oil, used in power plants and similar applications).

Even mazut consumption has been approved in some power plants across the country.

According to Article 18 of the Clean Air Law, the Ministry of Oil is obliged to produce fuel, including gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil, and kerosene in accordance with approved national standards (Euro 4).

Also, the share of motorcycles in the production of gaseous pollutants is about 21 percent and in the production of suspended particles is 10 percent.

In addition, each ten carbureted motorcycles emit as much particulate matter as an old diesel bus per kilometer, which is a major cause of air pollution.

While moving sources of pollutants such as diesel cars, motorcycles, private cars, etc. are one of the most important causes of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns – the most important cause of air pollution in the second half of the year – which unfortunately vehicles that do not have technical inspection are only fined in Tehran and several other metropolises.

Health sector sees 29% growth in budget

From page 1 ► The president mentioned stable economic growth, people's livelihood, observing justice, and efficiency of the government system as the main approaches of the budget bill and stated: “In this bill, the establishment of a progress and justice fund in all provinces is foreseen so that the development credits of the provinces are paid systematically.”

Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy, Health Minister Bahram Einoullahi has said.

In October 2021, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain, said that Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially



in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers.

They have also played an effective role in improving life expectancy, reducing the death of pregnant women, improving the health status and disease index in the last 40 years, etc.

The World Health Organization believes

that the improvement of health indicators in the villages of Iran and the reduction of the gap between the health indicators in rural and urban areas are due to the activity of health care providers.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

As many as 1,693 knowledge-based companies are active in the field of health, Younes Panahi, the deputy minister of health for research and technology, has said.

Some \$5.5m to be channeled to deforestation

TEHRAN – Mostafa Jalili, an official with Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, has said 2.27 trillion rials (about \$5.5 million) is projected to be spent on deforestation plans.

The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has allocated the budget for dealing with wind erosion as well as sand and dust storms, IRNA quoted Jalili as saying.

Moreover, 13.66 trillion rials (about 34 million) have been allocated for watershed management and soil protection, he added.

Jalili went on to say that 8.57 trillion rials (about \$21 million) have been allocated for the protection, restoration, and exploitation of forests and pastures.

In the current year, some 26 trillion rials (\$65

million) has been allocated to protecting natural resources in the fields of watershed management and soil protection, protection and sustainable exploitation of forests and pastures, and desertification, he noted.

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the administration's draft of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, to the Majlis on Wednesday.

The proposed budget amounted to about 52.616 quadrillion rials (about \$131 billion), with a 40 percent rise from the current year's budget.

The president mentioned stable economic growth, people's livelihood, observing justice, and efficiency of the government system as the main approaches of the budget bill and stated: “In this bill, the establishment of a progress and justice fund in all provinces is foreseen so that the development credits of the provinces are



paid systematically.”

On January 8, Hossein Mir-Rajabi, an official with Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, said the Organization plans to benefit from the experiences of knowledge-based companies toward preserving natural resources.



SOCIETY

JANUARY 15, 2023

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 41

They support extensive reedbeds and fringing vegetation like Salix. The area is extremely important for breeding, passage and wintering waterfowl. The Ramsar site comprises one unit.

The wetlands of Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay are an outstanding example of a natural sand spit/coastal lagoon system characteristic of the south Caspian.

They play a substantial hydrological and ecological role in the functioning of the coastal systems of the southeast Caspian.

They provide wintering habitat to four species of threatened birds: Pelecanus crispus, Phalacrocorax pygmaeus, Oxyura leucocephala and Aquila heliaca.

Five other threatened species of waterfowl have occurred as occasional visitors in small numbers.

The Lapoo-Zaghamarz Ab-bandans provide important wintering habitat for Phalacrocorax pygmaeus, a globally threatened species.

Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay support an extremely diverse wetland flora and fauna.

Gorgan Bay is an important spawning and nursery grounds for various fish species, while the peninsula and the marshes support large breeding colonies of Ardeidae, Laridae and several species of shorebirds.

The wetlands of Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay hold well in excess of 20,000 waterfowl.

The wetland supports over 1% of the regional Middle East breeding populations of the waterbirds Glareola pratincola and Sterna albifrons, and during the migration seasons and in winter, support over 1% of the regional populations of at least 32 species of waterfowl.

The Lapoo-Zaghamarz Ab-bandans regularly support over 1% of the regional wintering population of Anas strepera.

General location

Miankaleh Peninsula, Gorgan Bay and Lapoo-Zaghamarz Ab-bandans are situated in the Province of Mazandaran, in northern Iran.

They are located at the south-east extremity of the Caspian Sea, about 2 km west of the city of Bandar-e-Torkeman, near the village of Zaghamarz.

Physical features

Gorgan Bay is a shallow, brackish embayment, almost cut off from the Caspian Sea by the 60 km long Miankaleh Peninsula.

That is a low, sandy peninsula with coastal dunes, pomegranate scrub and grassland. At its widest point it is about 4 km wide, at the narrowest point about 1 km.

A chain of 50-meter-wide sand dunes parallels the Caspian Sea Coast. The dunes, which rise to about 4 meters above sea level, form the highest point in the area.

Gorgan Bay (23,800 ha) has a muddy bottom, and is oligotrophic, with a salinity of 10–12 ppt. It receives freshwater inflow from a number of small rivers and streams rising on the humid north slope of the Alborz Mountains to the south.

The maximum water depth of the bay is 2 metres. There are extensive freshwater marshes at the west end of the bay and along its south shore, where the freshwater inflow is greatest.

The marshes are flooded in autumn and winter, and are eutrophic due to the inflow of numerous streams, agricultural run-off and irrigation channels.

There are also extensive tracts of seasonally flooded Tamarix woodland at the west end of the bay. Maximum water depth at the marshes is 0.5 metres.

A rise in the sea level of the Caspian Sea of the last decade has resulted in a marked rise in water level of the Gorgan Bay and re-flooding of all those bare flats at the west end of the bay which had been exposed by falling sea levels during the previous decades.

On the seaward side of the peninsula, the sandy beach has virtually disappeared. The Lapoo-Zaghamarz Ab-bandans are two long narrow freshwater lagoons with fringing reed-beds on the landward side of the coastal dunes bordering the Caspian Sea.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «بی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 14

New cases	49
New deaths	1
Total cases	7,562,495
Total deaths	144,724
New hospitalized patients	25
Patients in critical condition	175
Total recovered patients	7,336,691
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,876,155
Doses of vaccine injected	155,286,047

