

Iran, Syria Reiterate Strength of Ties

Page 3

Report

Being anti-vaccination equals being antisemitic in the UK now!

By Ehsan Etesam

Amid deafening silence of the mainstream media against the background of recent mRNA vaccines' scandal, some specific events somehow manage to sneak through the layers of censorship and find their way to the surface.

The most recent example was a report about suspending the membership of a prominent UK Parliament Conservative Party member, Andrew Bridgen. Once a renowned advocate of vaccination program in the UK, this "ex"-member of Parliament for North-west Leicestershire was suspended from the Party on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Almost immediately after the news about his suspension broke out, it became clear that the decision by the Party is tied to Bridgen's recent loudly spoken criticisms against vaccination program, Page 5

Iran to get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft in spring: MP

TEHRAN- A lawmaker has anticipated that Iran will receive a number of Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia early in the upcoming Iranian year, which begins on March 21.

Speaking with Tasnim, Shahriar Heidari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, underlined that Iran has ordered Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, and they will arrive in the country in early 1402.

The lawmaker pointed out that Iran has additionally ordered from Russia a number of other pieces of military hardware, including air defense systems, missile systems, and helicopters, the majority of which will be delivered soon.

Based on media sources, Iran would obtain 24 of the fourth-generation twin-engine, super-maneuverable fighter planes used largely for air superiority operations, Page 2

Report

Queiroz still in race to take charge of Iran

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Carlos Queiroz still has a chance to be appointed as Iran football team head coach.

Queiroz headed Iran in the 2022 FIFA World Cup, where Team Melli suffered two defeats against England and the U.S. and earned a win over Wales and failed to book a place in the knockout stage.

The Portuguese coach's contract ran out after Iran failed to qualify for the World Cup knockout stage.

The football federation is not in a hurry to appoint the new head coach for the National Team, since it has learned the lessons of previous years' disastrous defeat for choosing Mark Wilmots as head coach.

Former Persepolis coach Branko Ivankovic, who leads Oman at the moment, is among the candidates to lead the Team as well as Iranian coaches Amir Ghalenoei and Farhad Majidi, Page 3

Blacks ask: Is this dreamland or dramaland?

© Tehran Times

TEHRAN – Undoubtedly, racial tensions in America today have become one of the most important challenges of the country, and these tensions are the result of full-scale racial discrimination in American society, especially against Blacks, who are referred to as African-Americans.

When you are born to Black parents, you have to receive special education to be able to live.

When a Black man is called by the police for an alcohol test, if his hand is in his pocket, he is doomed to be shot and must take his last

breaths and enjoy seeing the last beautiful sights of the universe.

Today, parents of persons who are Black, whether father or mother is Black or both, know what to teach their children. Tell them what to do and what not to do, Page 5

Iranian oil exports rise to record high despite western pressures: report

TEHRAN – Iran's oil exports have reached new highs in the last two months of 2022 and are making a strong start to 2023 despite U.S. sanctions, Reuters reported on Sunday citing ship tracking companies.

As reported, the Islamic Republic's oil exports have risen mostly due to the higher shipments to China and Venezuela.

Energy consultant SVB International said Iran's crude exports in December averaged 1.137 million barrels per day, up 42,000 bpd from November and the highest 2022 figure SVB has reported based on estimates given earlier.

"In comparison to the Trump administration, there hasn't been any serious crackdown

or action against Iran's oil exports," said Sara Vakhshouri of SVB. "January exports were so far strong like previous months."

"Lower Chinese demand and Russia's supply to China have been a major challenge for them. Most of its oil still goes to the Far East, ultimately China. Iran also helps Venezuela to export its oil," Page 4

Benefactors expected to donate \$200m for school building

TEHRAN – By the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), benefactors are expected to donate 80 trillion rials (about \$200 million) for building schools across the country.

Benefactors have so far donated 46 trillion rials (about \$115 million), ISNA quoted Hamidreza Khanmohammadi, the director of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools, as saying.

By the end of the year, the figure is expected to reach 80 trillion rials (about \$200 million), he added.

Last year, benefactors donated 34 trillion rials (about \$85 million) and the administration also allocated 31 trillion rials (about \$77 million) for building schools, he highlighted, Page 7

Jameh Mosque of Ushturjan; a living museum of lavish decorations

TEHRAN – Survived in excellent condition, the Jameh Mosque of Ushturjan is an amazing reminiscent of Il-khanid architecture in a town of the same name in Isfahan province.

The mosque was built with a mud brick core and fired brick siding. It was commissioned by an Il-Khanid administrator from Ushturjan and dates to 715 AH (1315-1316 CE) according to two different inscriptions.

The decoration is more significant than the main building, which consists of a small courtyard with a dome chamber in front of a vaulted iwan on one side and three arcade prayer halls on the other.

A compilation of decorative methods from all over the nation can be seen in the variety of patterns, materials, and material combinations used in the decoration of the mosque.

The tall stucco mihrab depicts an unusual proportion that reaches the transitional zone. Some decorations are formed by terracotta elements across the dome's interior, and the gaps are filled with a variety of painted plaster patterns.

Mosaic faience, glazed and unglazed terracotta and other materials are lavishly used to decorate the northern entrance portal, 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.

Riyadh looking to get more points

The Shargh newspaper points to the lack of readiness and desire by Saudi Arabia to resume relations with Iran. "Due to some developments and temporary issues (unrest in Iran), Saudi Arabia imagines that by delaying the restoration of relations with the Islamic Republic, it can get more concession from Tehran from a position of power," Shaq quoted an expert as saying, Page 2

Iranian MPs excoriate Iraqi PM for using fake name for Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – A number of Iranian lawmakers has reacted to Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad al-Sudani using a controversial name for the Persian Gulf.

Alireza Salimi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, called on al-Sudani to make up for his mistake of using a fake name for the Persian Gulf. "The Iraqi officials should carefully study the historical discussion. The Persian Gulf has always been the Persian Gulf and they know that with unfriendly comments they are causing trouble in the relations between the two countries," he told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

Salimi added, "The enemies of the two nations of Iran and Iraq are seeking to create tension between the two countries. Iraqi politicians are expected to be careful in their comments. They should further their studies in historical issues and geographical information in the area of the Persian Gulf region," Page 3

Iranian Artists Forum to review Kevin Macdonald's movie on Ugandan dictator Idi Amin

TEHRAN – Kevin Macdonald's acclaimed historical drama "The Last King of Scotland" will be reviewed at the cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum on Monday evening.

Starring Forest Whitaker and James McAvoy, the 2006 movie depicts the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's regime as seen by a fictional Scottish physician during the 1970s.

The topic "The Lonely Totalitarian" will be discussed during the review session, which will be attended by sociologist Iman Vaeqi.

Peter Morgan and Jeremy Brock co-wrote the screenplay based on Giles Foden's 1998 novel of the same title, which refers to Amin's claim of being the King of Scotland, Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Riyadh looking to get more points

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

from page 1 ► The paper says Saudi Arabia is trying to turn the Baghdad meetings intended to reestablish ties between Tehran and Riyadh into a “protracted and delaying process”.

Etemad: Lack of a macro strategy for main int'l corridors

In an interview with Etemad, a political analyst explains why Iran is not present in the commercial corridors of the region. “There are two main reasons for the issue: One reason is external and related to the politics of countries, and the other reason is internal,” the analyst notes.

“We don't have an independent and coherent policy on the issue. Regarding the external reason, after the end of Iraq's war against Iran (in the 1980s) and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Americans followed a macro policy and believed that if stability and security were established in Iran after the end of the war, Iran can use its geographical advantage to promote its position at the international level, that is why the U.S. did not let the transit routes pass through Iran.”

Kayhan: Chaos, ability of Iranians

In its editorial, Kayhan analyzed the recent riots and how it failed.

The enemy did not calculate the special ability of the Iranians, or even if they calculated, they did not have a way to neutralize it, the publication said.

Iran is a country where successive movements have been launched against Western domination over the past 150 years.

Iranians have won the world's biggest revolution against the West with great speed and maintained it for 44 years.

Decades of harsh Western sanctions failed to force them to rise against the Islamic Revolution.

America and its puppets have either not made calculations regarding the intelligence and strength of the Iranian leadership, or if they had made calculations, they had no other way than to spread lies against it.

The people and the Leader of the revolution were able to overcome the recent unrest. In one sentence “Iran's will to defeat its enemies was stronger than the enemies' will to defeat theirs.”

Iran: Europe's analytical mistake

In an interview with the Iran daily on relations between Europe and Iran, a political expert has

said: “Iran is not a destructive and insecure player, but if the destabilizing challenges in the countries of the region are too much, these insecurities will spill over to Europe.”

Iran can help the Europeans a lot not to let the insecurity spread there. Over the next few months, the Europeans will come to the conclusion that they have made an “analytical mistake”.

It is expected that West Asia to face challenges next year, and that challenges move toward the Europeans and harm them.

Referring to the UK that has recalled its ambassador from Tehran and also the possibility of a similar action by other European countries, the newspaper writes: One day, they made an analytical mistake recalling their ambassador, but in the end, they felt obliged to resume relations.

This time, it seems that after a few months, with a change in their approach, they will again put forward proposals to continue negotiations. But these opportunities, as the foreign minister has said, are not open always. “Perhaps the situation in Iran will change in four months, and Iran will not negotiate with Europe in the next four months under the same conditions that it was willing to negotiate.”

Armen-e-Melli: Two benefits of agreement between Iran, IAEA

In its editorial, Arman Melli discusses the prospect of nuclear negotiations to revive the JCPOA and writes: “The reality is that the negotiations to revive the JCPOA have not reached a deadlock because of the safeguards issues raised by the IAEA, but it was deadlocked because of the way countries such as the U.S., Germany, England, and France look at the protests and unrest in Iran.

They are waiting to see where these protests will lead to and then decide about the future of the negotiations.

But if Iran can reach an agreement with the IAEA and solve the three questions raised, it will have two advantages: First, it will prevent a new resolution from being passed by the IAEA Board of Governors (BOG). Second, if this problem is solved, the excuse that the West announced last year for not negotiating will no longer exist. Because Iran wanted the three IAEA questions to be resolved in the form of political talks between Iran and the Western countries, but the Western countries claimed that the Board of Governors should decide on the matter and they cannot interfere.”

Iran to get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft in spring: MP



from page 1 ► Tactical Air Base (TAB) 8 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), located in the city of Isfahan in central Iran, is expected to house some of the combat aircraft.

The Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jet “combines the qualities of a modern fighter (super-maneuverability, superior active and passive acquisition aids, high supersonic speed and long range, capability of managing battle group actions, etc.) and a good tactical airplane (wide range of weapons that can be carried, modern multi-channel electronic warfare system, reduced radar signature, and high combat survivability),” according to Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC).

Iran hasn't purchased any new fighter aircraft in recent years with the exception of a few Russian MiG-29 Fulcrum fighters that it bought in the 1990s.

Significant agreements between Iran and Russia have been made in recent months to expand their economic, trade, energy, and military cooperation.

UK momentarily withdraws its ambassador from Tehran

TEHRAN- After Alireza Akbari was executed in Iran, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office summoned the British ambassador to Tehran for deliberations, according to the UK's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

Iran executed Akbari, a dual Iranian-British national, who had been convicted of spying for Britain's Mi6. The report of his execution was announced on Saturday.

The Iranian Judiciary announced that Akbari, a former Iranian deputy defense minister, was sentenced to death and executed on charges of “corruption on Earth,” “threatening social and political well-being,” and “extensive actions against the country's internal and external security through espionage for the British government's intelligence agency”.

On Saturday night, Cleverly sent a tweet suggesting that London was contemplating its options in light of Akbari's verdict.

In addition, Cleverly stated on Saturday that sanctions had been put on Iran's prosecutor general following the execution of Akbari.

On Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry also summoned Simon Shercliffe, the British ambassador in Tehran, in reaction to Britain's unusual actions, notably in the area of Iran's national security.

When criticizing Tehran for its alleged violations of human rights on Saturday, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak underlined once more that “Our response to Iran is not confined to today. We are considering more options.”

Tehran-Cairo on threshold of compromise and mutual understanding: analysis

TEHRAN- Hossein Ebrahim Nia, an expert on Egypt affairs, says after several decades of turmoil and ambiguity in Iran-Egypt relations it has been about for a year that the two countries have been sending signals to resume relations.

Recently the head of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Council has welcomed a proposal by Iraq to mediate between Iran and Egypt and emphasized the importance of Tehran-Cairo relations.

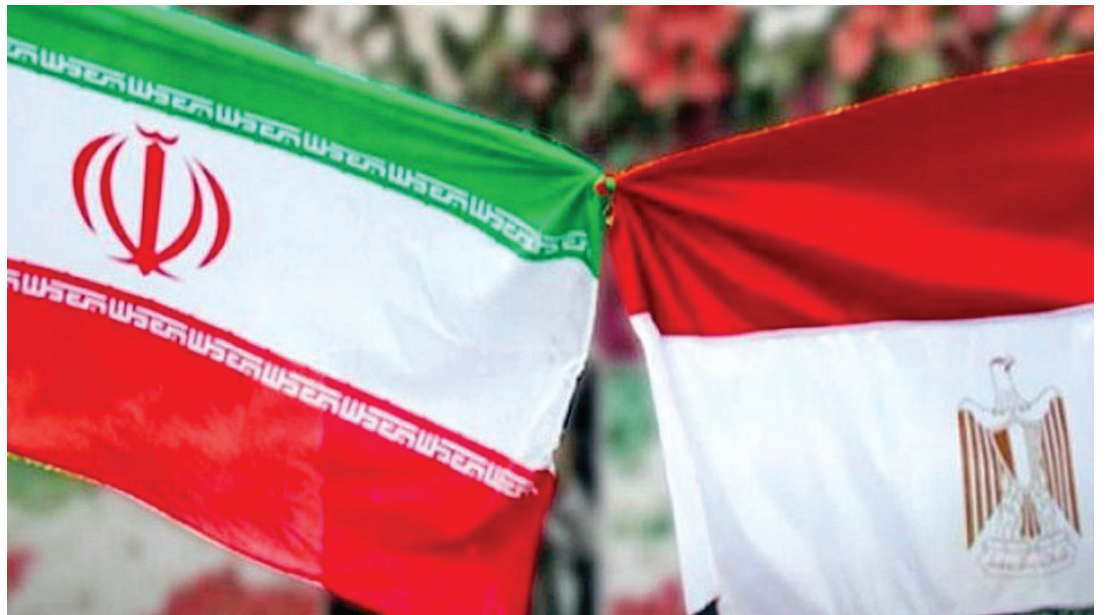
“No doubt, strengthening mutual cooperation between them as the two nations with ancient civilizations will have an effect on their role and power in the region,” Ebrahim Nia wrote on the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR) website on January 14.

Following This is the text of the article:

What adds to the necessity of following up the successive messages from both Iran and Egypt is the influential weight of the two countries in West Asia and North Africa to settle some insoluble issues that require a serious need to solve the problems in relations between the two countries.

However, it should be noted that the existing gap in the relations between the two countries cannot be easily mended and it is necessary to first focus on the challenging issues in the region that are of strategic importance for both sides. So, it can be a starting point for strategic negotiations between the two countries, especially since Egypt has defined its foreign policy in an Arab and not an African framework. This makes the progress of the desire of the two sides to resume relations more complicated.

This complexity is also caused by the existing challenges in relation to the Persian Gulf countries and the issue of the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which will directly affect this process. In fact, Cairo has always considered the sensitive parameters of the Arab countries of the



region in its foreign policy and has been careful about its strategic relations with those countries.

Although the mentioned factors add to the complexity and difficulty to resume the relationship between the two countries, at the present time, both Iran and Egypt can jointly solve some of the crises in their regions, especially in the field of security and foreign policy through mutual understanding and by leaving behind the remaining differences from the past. Also, by establishing relations, they should recognize the areas of consensus and how to expand and deepen the areas of joint cooperation, and subsequently give the two countries political, cultural and economic benefits, opportunities and privileges. Likewise, this proximity can have a positive effect on developments in West Asia and North Africa, especially on the security axis. For example, Iran and Egypt are located in two important geopolitical points of the world.

The Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf and the Suez Canal in the Red Sea are two strategic passages in the world. Iran's geographical location in the Persian Gulf region, its proximity

to Central Asian countries and the Caucasus republics, benefitting from huge oil and gas resources and regional influence are among the components that show Iran's importance for Egypt. On the other hand, Egypt's geographical location at the junction of two continents, Africa and Asia, shows the importance of that country for Iran, especially in the sphere of influence in Africa as the future continent in the world politics.

At the same time, it should be kept in mind that developments in the world from 2025 to 2030 are going in a direction that will cause wide changes upon entering the 30s of the present century; therefore, the players of the international system, whether at global or regional level, by taking actions and reactions, are trying to complete this era and have the least problems; that is to say reduce and manage the destructive and erosive effects of such developments on their interests and national security. So it is possible to evaluate the current signs of the two countries in the direction of negotiations.

In fact, following the current and future developments in the world, Iran

and Egypt are forced to manage the pressures of the international system by creating a suitable and managed platform with new coalitions; meanwhile, the three factors of security, economy, and politics will be more effective on the talks; for example, in the field of economy, the two countries with two different continents are looking for new markets.

Therefore, it is predicted that Iran and Egypt, although face many external and internal complications for rapprochement, due to mutual interests and pressures of regional and extra-regional factors, they will start strategic dialogues in the near future. Now, Tehran and Cairo have come to the reality that in many issues concerning the region, including the issue of security and terrorism, establishing political stability, and economic markets, they have mutual geopolitical interests and are a point of connection for each other's political, security and economic interests in the region. No doubt, strengthening mutual cooperation between them as the two nations with ancient civilizations will have an effect on their role and power in the region.

Amir Abdollahian to Assad: Iran will keep assisting Syria sternly

TEHRAN - On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian reassured Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that his nation will maintain “its robust support” for Syria, emphasizing that Iran regards Syria's security and prosperity to be its own.

Amir Abdollahian met Assad in Damascus during his Saturday visit to Syria, which was the second stage of his regional tour that began in Lebanon.

The foreign minister expressed delight with the growing ties between Iran and Syria, underscoring the need of laying the groundwork for the long-term growth of such relationships.

Amir Abdollahian was also pleased with the development of Syria's connections with other nations, stressing that this demonstrated Syria's significant role in the region.

Iran constantly insists on diplomatic alternatives to military conflict, he remarked, adding the Islamic Republic thus supports “good improvements in Syria's political ties with other nations.”

Amir Abdollahian also spoke with President Assad about the most recent advances in the nuclear talks intended to lift the illegitimate sanctions the West had placed on Iran.

President Assad also said Syria would never forget Iran's support for his country.

He emphasized the significance of the upcoming visit to Syria by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

President Assad went into further detail about recent political and diplomatic events pertaining to Syria, highlighting the significance of ongoing negotiations and synergy between Tehran and Damascus over significant bilateral and regional problems.

He noted that Syria and the Islamic Republic of

Iran are partners and that they would continue to help one another in various areas.

‘Ties with Syria are at their best’

Amir Abdollahian said that relations between the two countries are “at their best,” and authorities from both nations seek to elevate their economic and commercial connections to the level of political relationships.

He made the remarks during a joint news conference with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad.

The Iranian foreign minister announced that Damascus and Tehran are now carrying out agreements they previously struck, and he and his Syrian counterpart have agreed to prolong a long-term cooperation pact that “will be formalized in the near future.”

Amir Abdollahian emphasized that the two nations' collaboration will continue in all areas, particularly energy, noting that conversations had taken place about the development of a thermal power plant in Syria.

Amir Abdollahian stated that Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, had been asked to visit Syria by President Assad, and that “I will put my all efforts into making this trip happen.”

The Iranian foreign minister also emphasized the importance of upholding national sovereignty and the integrity of countries, and he pledged that Iran will keep up its diplomatic efforts to mediate problems between Turkey and Syria.

Amir Abdollahian expressed delight that Tehran's contacts with Ankara and Damascus had resulted in negotiations between the two countries.

“Iran, Syria will boost collaboration to thwart Western sanctions”

Mekdad stated that Iran and Syria want to

strengthen their economic and commercial ties in an effort to resist Western sanctions on both nations.

Speaking in a press conference, he lauded Iran for supporting Syria, adding, that the two countries want to deepen their economic and trade ties.

Mekdad said that in an effort to combat “illegal and unilateral sanctions” put in place by Western countries, they had discussed measures to increase bilateral cooperation in all areas, including the economy.

He praised Iran's friendship with Syria and urged the two countries to remove any barriers standing in the way of deepening their ties.

The senior Syrian diplomat stated that Palestine was discussed in his conversations with Amir Abdollahian, emphasizing that Syria and Iran support the Palestinian people and that the Israeli regime's hostility and violence toward the Palestinian people should terminate.

Turkey's military presence in northern Syria is 'a form of occupation'

Mekdad made a reference to Israeli attacks on Syria over the past few years, which have persisted despite repeated warnings from Damascus.

“Syria won't forget the military assault, will reply to these atrocities at the appropriate moment, and will inflict huge casualties on the occupying troops of the Zionist regime that they will never forget,” he declared.

Mekdad also described Turkey's military presence in northern Syria as “a form of occupation” and said that Syria's independence and sovereignty should be recognized in any future political discussions between the two countries.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Former Qatari PM cautions against military provocations in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN- Sheikh Hamad bin Jas-sim bin Jaber Al Thani, a former prime minister of Qatar, has issued a warning against any military provocations in the Persian Gulf, saying that he believes any military conflict will have disastrous economic, political, and social repercussions on the region.

The situation in the Persian Gulf region is dangerous and everyone must constantly be on the lookout for any potential incident that could result in

regional conflict, he tweeted on Saturday night.

The former prime minister asserted that Western leaders, led by the United States, have not yet reached an understanding with Iran to resurrect the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Israel, according to Sheikh Hamad, is actively looking to acquire weapons and equipment that would allow it to

attack Iranian locations in the region.

And the U.S. is still hesitant to provide Israel with such weaponry, he added.

A military provocation could occur if the JCPOA is not resurrected, he cautioned.

Sheikh Hamad expressed optimism that the Persian Gulf Arab countries might utilize all their energy to alert the West, particularly the U.S., of the

dangers of any regional conflict.

The former Qatari official admitted that he had been highly hopeful about the prospects of reviving the JCPOA between the West and Iran, but his optimism has recently waned.

The former prime minister stated that he does not rule out the possibility of a renewed agreement with Iran over its nuclear program, adding such a move would save the region from unfavorable effects.

Iran, Syria reiterate strength of bilateral ties

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

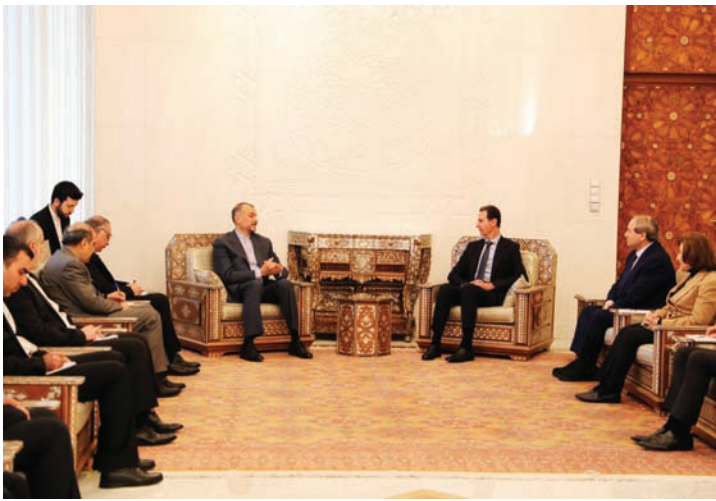
TEHRAN – After a visit to Lebanon, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian traveled to Syria amid a flurry of diplomatic overtures in the region aimed at reconciliation.

In Damascus, Amir Abdollahian was received by his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mikdad. He then held a meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In the meeting with President Assad, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers Syria's security and progress as its own security and progress and will continue its strong support for Damascus.

This comes against a backdrop of regional efforts to build bridges between Syria and the Arab world on the one hand and between Syria and Turkey on the other hand. To this end, President Assad paid a visit to the United Arab Emirates in March last year. Also, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed visited Damascus in early January in further sign of growing ties between Syria and the UAE.

In parallel, Syria and Turkey are inching toward reproachment after years of tensions. Recently, the defense ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Russia held a joint meeting in Moscow in what was seen as preparation for a meeting between



the presidents of Turkey and Syria. Contacts between Syria, the UAE, Turkey and Russia are underway for greater thaw, with Turkish officials seem to be keener to open a new chapter with Syria.

In the meantime, there have been some speculations in the Arab media that this trend of rapprochement could train relations between Tehran and Damascus.

But Amir Abdollahian made it clear that Iran-Syria relations are strong and will continue to grow. In his meeting with President Assad, the Iranian foreign minister pointed to good and close consultations and cooperation between the officials of the two countries, especially at the level of foreign ministries and

said his visit to Syria was aimed at continuing and completing exchanges of views between Tehran and Damascus over issues of mutual interest at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Amir Abdollahian also expressed pleasure with the expanding trend of Syria's foreign ties, saying this shows the importance and significant position of Syria in the region, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always put emphasis on political solution instead of war, and, as a result, Tehran welcomes the positive developments in the political ties of Syria with other countries.

Observers believe that while Iran-Syria ties remain strong, some parties who previously tried to overthrow the Syrian government through war could now be working to entice Syria into distancing itself from Iran. Those who once used a stick in their relations with Syria, observers say, now may be offering carrots. But this approach is unlikely to drive a wedge between Tehran and Damascus.

President Assad has invited his Iranian counterpart, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, to pay a visit to Damascus. And Amir Abdollahian expressed confidence that the trip will pave the way for further bolstering friendly and brotherly relations between the two nations in different spheres.

Assad emphasized the importance of President Raisi's upcoming visit to Syria, noting that Damascus is ready and firmly resolved to make joint efforts and help make the visit as much successful as possible.

He pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the closest country to Syria and "it stood by us in the war and we will not forget the Islamic Republic of Iran's support."

The Syrian president underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran is Syria's partner, adding, "We have been together and will support each other in different fields."

Iranian MPs excoriate Iraqi PM for using fake name for Persian Gulf

From Page 1 ► The lawmaker asserted, "Lack of study and insufficient information of the prime minister of Iraq is a defect for the official of one of the countries in the region, and he must compensate as soon as possible."

Salimi was reacting to a recent interview al-Sudani gave to Germany's DW channel in which he openly defended his earlier use of the word "Arabian" instead of Persian in describing the Persian Gulf.

The prime minister sparked controversy in Iran after he used a different name for the Persian Gulf at the Persian Gulf Cup 25 currently being held in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, where football teams from Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar are competing for the title.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced last week that Iran summoned the Iraqi ambassador to Tehran over Iraq's use of a fake name for the Persian Gulf.

"In the wake of Iraqi authorities' use of a fake name for the Persian Gulf, we summoned the ambassador of Iraq to the Foreign Ministry and informed the Iraqi side of the great Iranian nation's sensitivity regarding the use of the accurate and complete phrase of Persian Gulf," Amir Abdollahian said, according to Iran's official news website IRNA.

He also said that Prime Minister al-Sudani has redressed his mistake of using another word for the Persian Gulf on social media platforms.

"We communicated our protest in this regard despite having strategic, brotherly, and deep relations with Iraq," the Iranian foreign minister said.

In addition, firebrand Iraqi cleric Muqtada Sadr fanned the flames of tensions over the name of the Persian Gulf. In a welcoming statement on the occasion of the start of the Basra event, Muqtada appeared to be consciously using "Arabian Gulf" instead of Persian Gulf as he put the phrase in two brackets. Furthermore, his supporters launched an online campaign to mark the Basra Persian Gulf Cup 25 using the name used by Muqtada.

The controversy was in the process of fading away on Saturday when the al-Sudani interview re-ignited it again. He was asked whether he believed the Persian Gulf was Persian or Arabian. Although refraining from openly taking sides, he hinted that he believed the Persian Gulf

was Arabian. "The Arabian Gulf countries are a reality," he told the Arabic service of DW while on a trip to Germany.

That infuriated Iranian public opinion again, prompting an outpouring of anger among Iranians.

Shahriar Heidari, also a member of the parliamentary committee, called on the Foreign Ministry to summon the Iraqi ambassador again and follow up on the matter.

"From political point of view, Iraq is not a stable country and the prime minister of this country made such a comment because of the lack of political stability in Iraq; he is under the influence of America and Westerners," Heidari told ICANA.

"If the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, take a look at the maps of the Iraqi libraries, he will realize that throughout the history of the invention of the map in Iraq, the name of the Persian Gulf has been written on this region. Politically mature Arab countries, including Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have included the title of the Persian Gulf in their maps," he stated.

Heidari continued, "It is expected that the minister of foreign affairs will deal with this issue strongly and actively, and that NGOs and international organizations will follow up on the issue in order to defend the historical name of the Persian Gulf. It is necessary for the diplomatic apparatus to warn the Iraqi government by summoning the ambassador, the Persian Gulf countries want Iraq to use a fake name with the support of the United States. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should continuously and repeatedly follow up on the matter and bring it to a conclusion, rather than thinking that the matter is over with a warning."

The MP urged the Foreign Ministry to seek the help of international institutions to prevent repletion of fake name for the waterway.

"Over the past years, the use of the fake name for the Persian Gulf has happened many times, so the diplomatic apparatus should use the capacity of international institutions so that this issue does not happen again. Repeating a fake name does not work, but for a neighboring country that owes its security and economy to Iran, it is embarrassing to associate with an enemy like the United States, which has always sought tension

countries of the region more coordinated and with the aim of having a positive effect on solving regional problems," he said.

Bashiri added, "Considering that Saudi Arabia is responsible for important religious centers at the regional level, it is expected that it takes steps towards synergy at the regional level by communicating with the countries of the region, including Iran, in order to prevent the entry of foreigners" and their plans to sow

"discord among the countries."

He noted, "It is expected that they will reconsider their past behavior with Iran and realize that the Islamic world needs consensus in order to achieve progress in various fields, including the political field in the region."

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said at a presser during his recent visit to Lebanon that Saudi Arabia was not ready to restore diplomatic relations with Iran.

IRAN IN FOCUS

JANUARY 16, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Queiroz still in race to take charge of Iran

From Page 1 ► The federation's board of directors have not yet reached a consensus over the new head coach. The possibility exists that the National Team will be headed by an interim coach in the upcoming matches.

With many experts showing dissatisfaction on re-appointing Carlos Queiroz, the Portuguese coach still has a chance to be named Iran new head coach.

Forouzan Soleymani named Iran's women's futsal coach

TEHRAN - Forouzan Soleymani has been named as new head coach of Iran's women's futsal team.

Under her tutelage, Iran claimed the title of the 2015 AFC Women's Futsal Championship in Malaysia.

He has been re-appointed as Team Melli coach.

Soleymani will take charge of Iran futsal team in the 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship.

The competition will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from Jan. 25 to 31.

Iran lose to Montenegro at 2023 IHF World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Montenegro 34-31 in Group A of the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship Saturday night.

Iran had made history in their opening match on Thursday, edging Chile 25-24.

"I am proud of my players. We tried to catch Montenegro, but it was too much," said Iran coach Veselin Vujovic. "This is a big school for us; there is much emotion from me, believe me," he added.

Up next for Montenegro are Chile, while Iran face the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship bronze medalists, Spain.

Both games will be played on Monday.

The 28th edition of the IHF Men's World Championship is being held in Poland and Sweden from Jan. 11 to 29.

Denmark are the two-time defending World Champions, having won the 2019 and 2021 edition.

The winners will seal an automatic spot at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Spanish coach Trueba to join Mes Kerman coaching staff

TEHRAN – Former coach of Atletico Madrid football team Cali Trueba is on the verge of joining Mes Kerman coaching staff.

The 53-year-old coach has also worked as analyst of Real Sociedad and Elche. Trueba has most recently worked as Racing assistant coach.

Mes Kerman, headed by Farzad Hosseinkhani, sits 14th in the 16-team Iran Professional League table.

The Kerman-based football team is in danger of getting relegated to the First Division at the end of the season.

Iran's Taremi in IFFHS Men's AFC Team 2022

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Mehdi Taremi has been selected for the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) Men's AFC Team 2022.

The Porto forward scored two goals against England in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

He is the only Iranian player in the list, while Japan and South Korea have four and three players in the team.

Goalkeeper: Shuichi GONDA (Japan)
Defenders: KIM MIN-JAE (South Korea), Maya YOSHIDA (Japan), Aziz BEHICH (Australia)
Midfielders: Takumi MINAMINO (Japan), Daichi KAMADA (Japan), Salman AL FARAJ (Saudi Arabia), Hwang HEE-CHAN (South Korea)
Forwards: Salem AL DAWARI (Saudi Arabia), Mehdi TAREMI (Iran), SON Heung-min (South Korea)

Beheshti Rad bags gold at UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour

TEHRAN – Mohsen Beheshti Rad of Iran won a gold medal in the first World Cup of the 2022-23 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour.

World champion Beheshti Rad finished in first place in the Men's Speed, followed by Romanian climber David Bouffard and Kherlen Nyamdoo from Mongolia. The first World Cup of the 2022-23 was held in Cheongsong, South Korea from Jan. 13 to 15.

The tournament brought 90 athletes from 17 countries together in the first World Cup held in Asia since 2020.

Iran's women's ice hockey victorious over UAE at Kazan Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian women's ice hockey team defeated the UAE 4-0 at the "Russia – the Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2022" on Sunday.

The Iranian women's team had lost to Tatarstan 4-1 in its opening match.

Team Melli Banovan will play Bahrain in their next match. The international event is being held in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan from January 13 to 18.

The tournament has brought 12 men's and five women's teams together in two arenas: the Sports Palace and Tatneft Arena.

The decision to hold the competition was made within the framework of the international "Russia – the Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2022".

More than 300 hockey players from 14 Islamic states are taking part in the tournament.

Siavoshi says more to come from Iran handball

TEHRAN – Iran handball goalkeeper Mohammad Siavoshi said they can play better in the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship.

The 37-year-old helped Iran beat Chile 25-24 to earn its first-ever victory in the world championship on Thursday.

He pulled off 17 saves (43% save ratio), including a last-second stop and ensured that historic two points for his country.

"Five minutes before the match finished, I looked at the scoreboard and saw, 'wow, we are losing,'" the Foolad Sepahan Isfahan player told ihf.info.

"After that, I focused on the match and said to myself, 'God help me please to win this match'. After that, really, I don't know what happened; finally, we can win.

"I'm the oldest player in this team, and I have to support our players, many of whom, it's their first time being at a world championship.

"It's a beautiful sense of duty. I stand in the goal, and I did my duty as a goalkeeper. Yes, I had stress. It was not our best play, just 30% of our energy and our technique, plus we had some mistakes, but we can play better than this," he added.

"My coach says to me: 'you're crazy'. A goalkeeper is a very important part of handball, of course. If you're not crazy, and if you don't touch the ball on every place in your body, you cannot play good, but, yes, the goalkeeper is a crazy man.

"It was a really, really tough match from the beginning. It is hard when you prepare for one game for six months. Because you think if I lose this game, I cannot go into the second round," Siavoshi concluded.

Legislator calls on Saudi Arabia to reconsider policy toward Iran

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has called on Saudi Arabia to reconsider its past behavior toward Iran and move in the direction of de-escalation.

The lawmaker, Farhad Bashiri, told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) that Iran has started dialogue with Saudi Arabia with the aim of revolving regional issues.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contacted and communicated with the Saudi authorities within



the specified frameworks. This action is aimed at making the

‘Medicinal plants export can be increased through more compliance with world standards’



TEHRAN- The chairman of the Union of Medicinal Plants Exporters of Iran said the country's export of medicinal plants can be increased through compliance more with the world standards.

Mohammad-Ali Rezaei Kamal-Abad stated that world standards are increasing due to the health-oriented consumption of herbal products, and failure to comply with these standards will lead to the return or destruction of these products.

"In the past years, poisons have entered the country, which are not only not used in other countries, but have also caused water and soil pollution in our country", he lamented.

Referring to the importance of agricultural product export standardization, he added: "Standardization is done in our country, but this standardization is not up-to-date. With the coordination of ministries, expenditure and updating of information can help to standardize agricultural products and develop the export of

these products", he commented.

As previously announced by Rezaei Kamal-Abad, the value of medicinal plants exported from the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) was nearly 600 million dollars, but in the first nine months of this year, the value of the export of medicinal plants has decreased by 50 percent compared to the same period last year.

He said that having more than 11 climates out of 13 climates, Iran has 8,000 varieties of medicinal plants, which is at least twice as much as Europe.

According to global statistics, from 2020 to 2022, the turnover in the export of medicinal plants was more than 30 billion dollars, but of this amount, the export of medicinal plants from Iran was less than five percent, he further lamented.

He pointed out that in many countries of the world, the use of medicinal plants has become popular among the people, and said countries such as the U.S., China, and Germany are the main consumers of medicinal plants, so 65 percent of the drugs produced in Germany are of herbal origin.

Complaining about the drop in the export of the country's medicinal plants in the current year, Rezaei Kamal-Abad said, "Forex obligation, non-mechanization of agricultural systems, non-holding of the international exhibition, bulk export of medicinal plants, and cumbersome laws for producers are some of our most important weaknesses in the export of medicinal plants".

Next year budget bill allocates \$775m to Transport, Urban Development Ministry

TEHRAN – The budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has allocated 310 trillion rials (about \$775 million) to Transport and Urban Development Ministry.

Of the mentioned figure, more than 150 trillion rials (about \$374 million) is allocated to Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructure Company (CDTIC) to complete railway and freeway projects.

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

SPGC indigenizes knowledge for manufacturing 1,386 equipment items

TEHRAN – Engineers at South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) have managed to indigenize the knowledge for the production of 1,386 items and parts used in the country's gas industry during the first nine months of the current Iranian year (March 21-December 21, 2022), Shana reported on Saturday.

The engineers and specialists of the

company's central workshop are working every day for the domestic manufacturing of the parts and equipment needed in this complex in order to realize the programs defined in the current year which is named the year of knowledge-based production and job-creation and also to ensure sustained gas production during the cold season, SPGC Head Ahmad Bahoush said.

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – Revival of stagnant production units is one of the best, most suitable and least expensive solutions to increase production and create employment.

Considering that the idle units have gone through a significant part of the production process, such as land acquisition, building construction, infrastructure provision and machinery installation, naturally, providing the required resources and solving some of their problems such as those related to loans and instalments can speed up the job creation process.

In this due, reviving the idle industrial and production units is one of the main industrial approaches of the current government.

As announced by Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasoulain, over 2,000 idle units have returned to the production cycle since the current government took office in August 2021.

According to Rasoulain, who is also the deputy industry, mining and trade minister, this approach is very important since the country has been dealing with the most severe international sanctions for many years; and while it relies more than ever on domestic production.

Of course, what is seen as the result of the efforts of the ISIPO, as one of the main organizations in charge of boosting the country's production, planning and diligent follow-up to revive the stagnant production units, fortunately the work in this due is on the right track, the official has stated,



Reviving idle production units a major industrial approach of government

highlighting that revival of each stagnant production and industrial unit leads to job creation and return to work of 18 people on average.

The latest data released by the ISIPO head indicate that 1,000 idle industrial production units have been revived in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022).

As previously announced by Rasoulain, 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the country's industrial parks and zones during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400.

According to the official, with the

reviving of the mentioned units job opportunities were created for over 39,000 people.

"ISIPO had put it on the agenda to revive 2,000 stagnant units inside and outside industrial parks and zones in the previous year and by the end of the year 2,067 idle units returned to the production cycle, which provided employment for more than 39,000 people," Rasoulain said.

The official noted that 1,433 small workshop units were also established in the mentioned year most of which were the production

Iranian oil exports rise to record high despite western pressures: report

from page 1 ► Consultant Petro-Logistics, which tracks oil supply, said it was also seeing an upward trend in Iranian crude exports which, in its view, in December reached their highest level since March 2019.

Kpler, a data intelligence firm, put Iranian crude exports at 1.23 million bpd in November, the highest since August 2022 and almost on a par with April 2019's rate of 1.27 million bpd, although they slipped to just below 1 million bpd in December.

According to another analyst, Vortexa, China's December imports of Iranian oil hit a new record of 1.2 million bpd, up 130 percent from a year earlier.

"Most of these shipments found home in Shandong, where independent refiners have turned to discounted grades since the second half of 2022 amid sluggish domestic demand and depressed refining margins," the company said.



Vortexa said supply of Russian Urals, the main competing grade to Iranian oil, fell in December – when a price cap on Russian crude exports and European Union ban created uncertainty for buyers.

The press department of China's Foreign Ministry, in response to a Reuters request for comment,

Iran's exports to EU up 20% in 11 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's export to the European Union (EU)'s member states rose 20 percent in the first 11 months of 2022, as compared to the same period in 2021, according to the data released by the European Union's statistics office Eurostat.

The Eurostat's data show that Iran exported commodities worth €976 million to the union in the 11-month period of this year, while the figure was €812 million in the same time span of the previous year, IRNA reported.

The EU's export to Iran has also risen 22 percent to €3.739 billion

from €3.048 billion.

According to the Eurostat, the total value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €4.715 billion in January-November 2022, while the figure was €3.86 billion in the same period of 2021.

Among European countries, Germany was Iran's top trading partner in the first 11 months of 2022, accounting for about 39 percent of Iran's trade with the European Union. Germany exported €1.465 billion worth of goods to Iran while importing €260 million worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic. The country's total trade

with Iran was 1.725 billion euros.

As previously reported by Eurostat, the value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €4.863 billion in 2021, registering a nine-percent growth compared to the previous year.

The trade between Iran and the European Union in 2020 stood at €4.458 billion.

Iran exported €922 million worth of commodities to the union during January-December 2021 to register a 29-percent rise year on year.

Based on the mentioned data, the exports from Europe to the

and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The necessary licenses were also obtained for establishing 26 new industrial parks and zones across the country in the previous year, he added.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government is currently following in the industry sector.

The government is seriously pursuing its programs to resolve production units' problems in collaboration with the private sector; Very good planning has been done in this regard, Rasoulain said.

He mentioned providing infrastructure and supporting small businesses and enterprises as two major programs of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in relation to industrial parks and said that 2,023 projects related to providing infrastructure for industrial parks, including water, electricity, and gas supply are underway in different parts of the country.

Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization and its affiliated provincial companies now have 509 industrial parks and 340 industrial zones and five special economic zones in operation, 85 specialized industrial parks and zones, six technology parks, 40 technology and business service centers, two information technology and software service complexes; 100,058 contracts have been concluded and operation of 49,882 industrial units and 3,270 workshops has provided direct employment for 998,595 people across the country.

said: "The legitimate and reasonable cooperation between China and Iran under the international legal framework deserves respect and protection," without directly addressing Reuters query on China's record Iranian oil purchases.

Iran has also been expanding its role in Venezuela, despite U.S. sanctions, sending supplies of light oil for refining and diluents to produce exportable crude grades.

Iran's national budget bill for the upcoming year is based on even higher shipments of 1.4 million bpd, the semi-official Fars news agency reported this week.

Following Trump's removal of the United States from the nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions, Iran's crude exports fell back to as little as 100,000 bpd at times in 2020 from over 2.5 million bpd in 2018, according to tanker trackers.

Islamic Republic in the said year also increased by five percent, standing at €3.941 billion.

Iran imported €3.745 billion worth of commodities from the European Union states in 2020, while exporting €713 million to the region.

Iran mainly exports foodstuff and livestock, beverages and tobacco, raw materials, mineral fuels, and vegetable oils to European countries, while foodstuff, beverages and tobacco, mineral fuels, vegetable oils, and chemicals are also the main products imported from the union.

CBI negotiations with Qatar, UAE expected to bear positive results: expert

TEHRAN – Economic Expert and University Professor Vahid Shaaqai, who was among the scholars accompanying the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) in his visits to Doha and Abu Dhabi, says the negotiations with the mentioned countries are expected to result in positive outcomes.

"The good thing about these talks is that the policies that the central bank has put on the agenda are clarified and ambiguities about Iran's banking system are resolved," Shaaqai told IRIB on the sidelines of a meeting between CBI Governor Mohammadreza Farzin and the country's economic experts on Sunday.

Farzin started his tenure with a tour of the Persian Gulf neighboring countries, aiming to expand monetary ties with the Islamic Republic's major trade partners.

In early January, Farzin traveled to Doha on top of a specialized delegation to meet with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Thani to discuss ways of developing monetary and banking cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Farzin called for strengthening mutual ties and developing monetary and banking cooperation with the Arab neighbor.

Emphasizing the positive prospects of economic relations between Iran and Qatar, he said: "By increasing monetary and banking cooperation between the two countries, we will definitely achieve the goals set for Tehran-Doha economic relations."

Al-Thani, for his part, emphasized the interest of the country to enhance banking and monetary ties with Iran, noting that the development of banking relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of Qatar's main priorities.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari also accompanied the CBI governor on the trip.

Iran and Qatar have stressed preparing a roadmap to boost the value of trade between the two countries to three billion dollars by 2025.

In a meeting between Mohsen Rezaei, the Iranian vice president for economic affairs, and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani in October 2022, the two sides discussed ways of

expanding trade ties between the two countries and emphasized the need for taking the necessary measures to reach the mentioned economic goal.

After Doha, Farzin visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as his second foreign destination.

During this visit, the CBI governor met with UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) Khaled Mohamed Balama.

The two sides discussed ways of strengthening bilateral relations between Iran and the UAE, especially in the financial and banking fields during the talks.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari also accompanied Farzin in his meeting with the UAE officials.

CBI portal previously reported that providing financial resources for the Iranian businessmen active in the UAE and technical monetary negotiations regarding the compatibility of the two countries' currency and trade systems were also among the goals of Farzin's visit to the UAE.

From page 1 ► Tehran Von Ghasri, a Black man who was born from an Iranian father and a Black mother, says: I have been stopped many times by the police on the pretext of drinking alcohol, while I have never drunk alcohol in my life.

For not just a fistful, but for just 20 bucks George Floyd Jr., an African-American man, was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest made after a store clerk suspected Floyd may have used a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill, on May 25, 2020.

Derek Chauvin, one of the four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds which caused a lack of oxygen. After his murder, protests against police brutality, especially towards Black people, quickly spread across the United States and globally. His dying words, "I can't breathe," became a rallying slogan.

Now that you understand that George Floyd was killed for not just a fistful, but for just twenty bucks, you should not be surprised because America is the land of opportunities and whenever a policeman gets a chance, he can kill Black people even for less money and surprisingly, he is acquitted most of the time.

George Floyd was killed and this issue became a security challenge for Arica. Thousands of American citizens, both Black and white, reacted in the streets to the systematic killing of Blacks by the American racist police, and for a long time, major American cities were involved in a crisis.

Now, almost two years after that incident, history repeats itself again. The police kill another Black person in America.

Black Lives No Matter Any longer In 2013, three radical Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called Black Lives Matter.

It was in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman.

Now, nearly 10 years after that event, another thing happened in America. This time 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



Blacks ask: Is this dreamland or dramaland?

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 Anderson were called to a traffic accident in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles at around 15:00 local time.

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

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

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

Initially, 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 Anderson and attempt to detain him, he is initially compliant before shouting: "Please" and "help" and "they're trying to George Floyd me!"

The stun gun was initially used on 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.

People shot to death by police from 2017-2022 by race

Based on the statistics published by Statista Research Department, on Jan 2, 2023, the trend of fatal police shootings in the United States seems to only be increasing, with a total of 1,060 civilians having been shot, 220

Being anti-vaccination equals being antisemitic in the UK now!

From page 1 ► specifically the use of mRNA vaccines which according to him, "are causing serious harms" and explains why "so many people are ill since vaccination".

Bridgen has recently been praised and applauded by some for his "bravery" in taking the mRNA vaccines' scandal to the floor of the Parliament and challenging the Pharmaceutical Complex, a move which got him in deep trouble.

Bridgen set the fire storm by tweeting the disturbing results of a study by CDC (US's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) about "safety monitoring analyses for mRNA COVID vaccines" on January 11, 2023. In simple words, this study surveys the adverse effects from the vaccine reported by those who were vaccinated. It should be noted that considering the amount of paperwork people should fill out in order to file one of these reports, only a small fraction of vaccinated people have successfully added their data to the study, a fact which makes the available results even more horrifying.

The CDC, based on the data provided by the few people who made it to the last page of the forms, shows a wide range of adverse effects, including but not limited to: Atrial Fibrillation, Irregular Heartbeat, Myocarditis, Cardiac Failure, Cardiac Arrest, Pericarditis, Cardiac Flutter, Ventricular Extrasystoles, Cardiomegaly, etc.

"As a consultant cardiologist said to me", Bridgen's Wednesday morning tweet stated "this is the biggest crime against humanity since the holocaust". The official reactions to the tweet appeared later the same day to the absolute surprise of almost everyone as Bridgen's colleagues in the Parliament took the stage and labeled his words as "antisemitic", followed by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's approval.

On Wednesday afternoon, another member of Parliament Matthew Hancock who is considered by some as an utterly failed UK Health Secretary because of his lockdown policies during the pandemic, erupted Andrew Bridgen on the floor of the



Parliament, calling his tweet along with other things, "disgusting, antisemitic, and anti-vax conspiracy theory".

"Does the Prime Minister agree with me", Hancock lectured, "that the disgusting, antisemitic, anti-vax conspiracy theories that have been promulgated online this morning are not only deeply offensive, but anti-scientific and have no place in this House or in our wider society?"

Rishi Sunak didn't hesitate even for a minute to extort the opportunity, immediately joined the campaign to cancel off Bridgen. "Can I join with my friend in completely condemning those types of comments that we saw this morning in the strongest possible terms", Sunak said, adding that "obviously it's utterly unacceptable to make linkages and use language like that, and I'm determined that the scourge of antisemitism is eradicated". "It has absolutely no place in our society, and I know that the previous few years have been challenging for the Jewish community and I never want them to experience anything like that ever again," Sunak continued.

Many believe that the Wednesday incident marks a new era in regards with the cancel culture campaign against the anti-vaccination movement in the West by tying this movement to the sensitive notion of "antisemitism" by abusing Bridgen's tweet.

Sunak and Hancock were not the only politicians who availed themselves of this opportunity to seal the deal with the Pharmaceutical Complex. Another MP, Sajid Javid, in a tweet emphasized the dangers of antisemitism embedded in Bridgens' words, saying "Right to take action over @ABridgen's tweet. Morally repugnant to compare the life-saving vaccine rollout to the Holocaust. And it's dangerously wrong to imply the many good people who played their part in it are part of some kind of conspiracy."

Although the UK's propaganda machine did its best to distract the public by tying Bridgen's words to the infamous notion of antisemitism, commentators believe that the decision to remove him from power was made long before his controversial tweet.

of whom were Black, as of December 20, 2022.

In 2021, there were 1,055 fatal police shootings, and in 2020 there were 1,020 fatal shootings.

Additionally, the rate of fatal police shootings among Black Americans was much higher than that for any other ethnicity, standing at 5.9 fatal shootings per million of the population per year between 2015 and December 2022.

However, as of 2020, white Americans are the racial and ethnic majority, with non-Hispanic whites representing 57.8% of the population.

Hispanic and Latino Americans are the largest ethnic minority, comprising 18.7% of the population, while Black or African Americans are the second largest racial minority, only making up 12.1%.

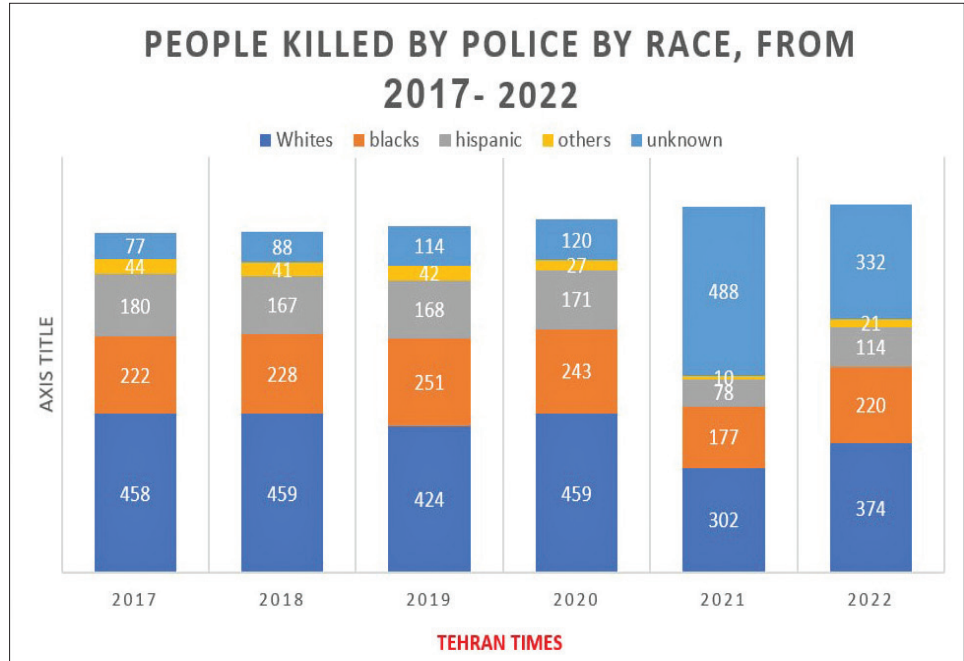
Last word; America is the land of opportunities and dreams

If serious action is not taken in the future to eliminate these challenges, they can become a threat to the trembling national security of the U.S. and completely change the situation.

It used to be said that The Only Good Indian Is a Dead Indian, but today it has been extended to other races, especially Blacks, and it can be easily said that according to the American police, The Only Good Black Is a Dead Black.

Yes, the U.S. is the land of dreams and opportunities. America is the land of dreams because every Black child born in that country has a dream, and that is to live in peace and tranquility. Living in a country that interrogates them for none.

Also, America is the land of opportunities because every policeman allows himself to use any opportunity to kill Blacks, and in the meantime, equal opportunities are available for white policemen to kill Black targets.



to remove MPs who raise questions about those harms," Bridgen's statement reads.

He called his suspension "saddening" but praised the amount of support he received from "ordinary people, medical workers who are too intimidated to speak out and of course from those who've experienced vaccine harms themselves or to a loved one."

But for many people all around the world who have suffered or still suffering harms and losses due to the semi-compulsory vaccination schemes of their governments with only one choice, which is the mRNA vaccines and most likely only the Pfizer ones, the peak of Bridgen's statement is the part he spoke out the all-out media blockade against the anti-mRNA vaccines activists who are being silenced and oppressed by the mainstream media.

"Hopefully, the media interest around my suspension will finally get the issue of vaccine harms into the media who have been so reluctant to cover this issue for so long, and issue which is clearly of huge and growing concern to many people across the globe," Bridgen said in his statement.

What happened to Bridgen can be seen as an effort to draw a redline for as to what extent a politician has the clearance to challenge certain international entities with deep influence out of their geographical border. And Bridgens' tweet provided the best window of opportunity for those who have the pen to draw the line, by gluing the anti-vaccination movement to the notion of antisemitism.

By the end of the day, it is clear that there will be many more physical and moral victims in different levels of the societies, especially in the West, on the way of the mRNA vaccination schemes of what we can call "a global deep state", the traces of which can be found in odd places like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. But, at this point, the more important question remains to be is the mainstream media going to pick up what appears to be the most significant scandal of the human history?

Two million people visit Lorestan

TEHRAN – The western province of Lorestan has recorded some two million tourist arrivals since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21, 2022), the provincial tourism chief has said.

Upon arrival in Lorestan, tourists are provided with tourism applications in three languages describing the province's attractions, Ata Hassanpur explained on Sunday.

Tourist safety, especially that of foreigners, is of the utmost importance to the province's tourism authorities, and there have been no problems so far, the official added.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes



are noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Maku to host winter tourism festival

TEHRAN – The northwestern Iranian city of Maku in West Azarbaijan province will be hosting a winter tourism festival, a local tourism official has announced.

A winter tourism festival is planned to be held in the border city during the eleventh Iranian calendar month of Bahman (January 21-February 19), Behnam Amirian explained on Sunday.

Tourism development and prosperity in the Maku Free Zone are greatly enhanced by holding various festivals, the official added.

The opportunity to hold the winter tourism festival serves as a great way to introduce the tourism potential of Maku, he noted.

Maku is located northwestern province of West Azarbaijan and enjoys a unique geographical and natural location.

In a valley that passes through which the Zangmar River divides Maku into two parts, the city is located 1294 meters above sea level.

Hir glass-bottomed bridge, a successful tourism investment, governor-general says

TEHRAN – The suspension bridge of Hir in the northwestern Ardabil province is a successful example of investment in the field of tourism, the province's governor-general has said.

The curved glass-bottomed bridge, which is considered an advantage of Ardabil tourism, has caused reverse migration in the region as well as tourism prosperity, CHTN quoted Seyyed Hamed Ameli as saying on Saturday.

However, tourism infrastructure in the region needs to be improved, the official added.

Inaugurated in 2020, the curved glass-bottomed bridge was reportedly the first of its kind in the world. Measuring 220 meters in length, the bridge's all-glass parts and metal cables have been constructed by domestic engineers using high-quality materials.

Back in 2020, a local tourism official announced that Ardabil can be named the province of suspension bridges, pointing to the Meshginshahr suspension bridge and Hir curved glass suspension bridge as well as the Azna suspension bridge.

Ardabil is home to a variety of “scary” glass bridges. Moreover, it embraces the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition.

Ardabil is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Jameh Mosque of Ushturjan; a living museum of lavish decorations

From Page 1 ▶ Due to possible constraints imposed by pre-existing structures, the main entrance portal and its flanking cylindrical minarets are situated on the northern exterior façade, off-axis with the sanctuary.

The construction process appears to have been quick and completed in a few short phrases. According to Archnet, the dome chamber appears to have been erected slightly earlier, utilizing thick plaster over the mud brick core.

Experts say in the area around Isfahan, where fired brick predominates, the use of mud brick is unusual.

Only the arcades have exposed brick, though it's possible that the



rest of the building used a plaster coating here as well. The plaster

is decorated with a wide range of decorative carvings, such as

geometric patterns, floral motifs in high relief, simulated brick bond, and brick end-plugs, which are in some places arranged to form rectangular Kufic inscriptions.

Repairs made in 1476 by a devout Ushturjani in the name of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler, Uzun Hasan, are noted in an inscription on the courtyard's eastern pier.

The Ilkhanid dynasty, also called Il-Khanid, was a Mongol dynasty that ruled Iran from 1256 to 1335. Il-Khan is Persian for “subordinate khan.”

The Il-Khanids consolidated their position in Iran and unified the region as a political and territorial entity after several centuries of fragmented rule by small dynasties.

Rock-carved tombstone discovered near Persepolis

TEHRAN – A researcher has found an ancient tombstone in Naqsh-e Rostam, which is one of the wonders of the ancient world situated near Persepolis, southern Iran.

The gravestone bears inscriptions in Pahlavi, which is a Middle Persian (sometimes called Middle Iranian) language, meaning that it was primarily used from the end of the Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC) to the advent of Islam in the 7th century CE.

“The rocky landscape of Naqsh-e Rostam has long been the site of various burials from the Sassanid era (onwards)... related to Zoroastrian monks who lived in this place,” ILNA quoted Iranian researcher Abolhassan Atabaki as saying on Sunday.

The reason for the diversity and extent of such burials was the large population of Istakhar (the ritual birthplace of the Sassanid kings), which is located at a close distance from the rocks of Nakhsh-e Rostam, he explained.

“For this reason, the people of Istakhar and the surrounding villages buried their dead bodies in the common manners of that time; they were buried in pits made in rocks or rocks.”

The burial of the dead in the gaps of



rocks was because Zoroastrian believers in the Sassanid period believed that the soil is a dark and demonic world, and on the other hand, they believed that the body of a deceased person is impure, the researcher stated.

“They believed that the ‘sacred element of the soil’ would be polluted by corpses. For this reason, they refused to bury the dead in soil.”

Atabaki said that the discovery of another burial inscription in his investigations in the heart of Nakhsh-e Rostam.

In the end, he added the text of all inscriptions that we have discovered in recent years would publish in conferences, magazines, and also a book titled Burials of Fars, authored by Najmeh Ebrahimi.

Tabriz Carpet Museum complete by 70 percent

TEHRAN – Construction of a carpet museum in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran is complete by 70 percent, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The museum is estimated to be inaugurated by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (started on March 21, 2025), Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Sunday.

A budget of 500 billion rials (\$1.2 million) has been allocated to the project, he noted.

There will be a display of historical carpets and a demonstration of the process



of weaving and designing carpets at the museum, the official added.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally, with the medallion pattern being arguably the most characteristic feature of them all. Weavers

spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex, to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital. It was when the famous Blue Mosque

was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548, when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Tabriz was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of the Islamic Tourism Capital in 2018.

Bojnurd holds culinary festival of Persian Ash

TEHRAN – Bojnurd has held a culinary festival dedicated to Ash, a thick Persian vegetable soup cooked in a wide variety of styles.

The festival was held on Friday in a bid to promote beard-winner women, family-oriented tourism, and employment, a local tourism official said.

The traditional slow-cooked soup is typically made with a variety of ingredients but may include flat wheat noodles, turmeric, vegetables (broccoli, carrots, onion, celery, spinach), legumes (chickpeas, kidney beans), herbs (dill, mint, coriander, minced cilantro), and optional meat such as ground lamb, beef or chicken.

Depending on the type of Ash, it could contain different types of grain, legumes (chickpeas, black-eye beans, lentils),

vegetables, tomato, herbs (parsley, spinach, dill, spring onion ends, coriander, dried mint), yogurt, onions, oil, meat, garlic, and spices, such as salt, pepper, turmeric, saffron, etc.

When it comes to Iran, food is also a delightful vehicle for discovering the ancient land that has long been situated at the crossroads of history.

A paradise for foodie travelers, Iran is where it's not just food on the menu. Some believe that Iranian cuisine is itself a metaphor for the country: It's savory, sweet, fragrant, and incredibly complex.

The cuisine of the ancient country delicately combines characteristics and peculiarities of Near and West Asia, India and East Asia. Similarly, the Persians have influenced many cuisines as part of their once policy of expansion.

Ancient relics restored to closest original states in Zanjan

TEHRAN – A total of 17 historical relics have been restored in Zanjan province over the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2022), the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The restoration projects aimed at preventing the relics from being

forgotten and wasted, Mohammadreza Mohammadpur explained on Sunday.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180–242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations of the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh. The subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the

UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

In January 2020, Zanjan was designated as a “world city of filigree” by the World Crafts Council after the WCC assessors visited various craft workshops, stores, exhibits, and bazaars of the city in a two-day itinerary in December 2019.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-0140009

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING API GRADE L-80 SEAMLESS"EU" , THREAD RANGE 2 2-7/8 IN. , 6.5 PPF , AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960	1000

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their “ Intention To Participate” letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no.2, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 21.771.28 EURO or 6.300.000.000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۱۰/۲۶

Benefactors expected to donate \$200m for school building

From page 1 ► He went on to say that 13 percent of schools need to be retrofitted and 6 percent (33 thousand classrooms) need to be demolished and reconstructed.

Some 300 trillion rials (about \$750 million) is needed to reconstruct the schools, he noted.

Referring to the issue of ‘future schools’, he said: “When we build a school, it should be used for at least 50 years. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the educational needs of the next generations in building a school.”

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

About 40,000 donors are active and involved in building schools across the country, he stated, adding, over 49 percent of schools, amounting to 150,000 classrooms, in the country are built with the participation of school-building benefactors.



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

On January 10, the first national event of future schools was held with the aim of promoting the use of knowledge-based technologies in schools.

The Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment

of Schools in cooperation with Barekat Foundation organized the event in line with the current year’s slogan set by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as “The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating”.

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

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

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

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

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

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

Over 235,000 foreign nationals vaccinated against measles, rubella

TEHRAN – In recent weeks, more than 235,000 non-Iranians in the age group of 9 to 30 have been injected with the measles vaccine in the country, and the disease is under control.

The process of vaccination against measles and rubella for foreign nationals is underway, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The main purpose of the vaccination is to strengthen the immunity of foreign nationals against measles, and with this vaccine, rubella is also covered.

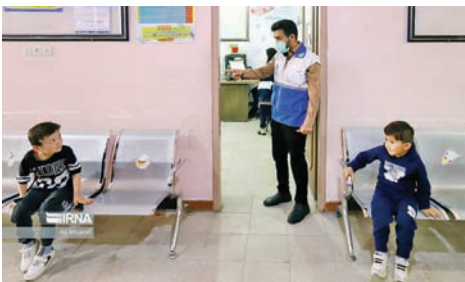
Measles is potentially a deadly disease. Severe complications include pneumonia, diarrhea, blindness, and encephalitis (brain swelling).

Most people who get rubella usually have a mild illness, with symptoms that can include a low-grade fever, sore throat, and a rash that starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.

On December 18, 2022, UNICEF donated 600,000 doses of the measles vaccine to Iran.

In May 2022, Iran announced that the number of confirmed measles cases in the past six months had exceeded 100 cases, despite the fact that the country had eliminated the virus prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sudden rise in the number of refugee arrivals from Afghanistan to Iran as of August



2021 and the delay in providing both Afghan and Iranian children with the necessary routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic, were some of the potential causes of increased measles cases in Iran.

In response, the Ministry of Health rolled out a measles vaccination campaign, vaccinating all refugees in the country aged 9 months to 30 years old, and called on the public to ensure that the routine vaccination of children is completed as per the national schedule as soon as possible, including children who had missed vaccinations because of the pandemic.

The measles vaccination program in Iran started in 1984 when 34 percent of the population was vaccinated in the first year and 90 to 95 percent of the population after 6 years. Also in 2003, 33 million people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country.

Concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing as the Afghan population grows.

Iran’s Primary Health Care (PHC) system is known as a role model in the Health Sector which could be adopted by other countries, both in terms of expanded networking and outreach as well as the successful linkage between the Health Sector and Medical Education institutes, such as Medical Universities, according to UNICEF.

As part of the PHC structure, comprehensive health care centers, health posts, and health houses are established in urban and rural areas, offering a variety of key health services to people, namely performing routine vaccination for all children including the refugees regardless of their legal status.

While the PHC system in Iran responded rapidly to confirmed cases of measles and vaccinated refugee families even without immigration documents, the ultimate goal is to ensure that such children receive vaccination before they or their close contacts are affected by the virus.

This would require a combination of outreach efforts and confidence building among the refugee communities, with or without immigration documents, ensuring that they receive immunization and other health services.

National budget allocates \$28m to Department of Environment

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment’s share of the next year’s national budget is 11.5 trillion rials (about \$28 million), ISNA reported.

The budget of the Department of Environment in the next year’s budget bill will be spent in four sectors.

The proposed budget for the “Environmental Pollutants Monitoring and Management Program” is 1.62 trillion rials (about \$4 million) that will be spent on studying and protecting the human environment and creating environmental pollution control and monitoring systems.

Moreover, 8.94 trillion rials (about \$22 million) have been earmarked for the “Protection, Restoration and Improvement of Ecosystems

under Management” program.

This part of the budget will be spent on the protection of Golestan National Park and Dena Biosphere, the protection, monitoring, and restoration of endangered wetlands and rivers, the provision of equipment for the Department of Environment, the protection, monitoring and restoration of the four regions Under the management of the Environmental Protection Organization, the protection and restoration of the Anzali wetland, the protection and restoration of the Hamoun wetland, and the provision of equipment for the protection and firefighting units of under the management of the Department of Environment.

Education, empowerment, and promotion of people’s participation in preserving and im-

proving the environment is another program for which 930 billion rials (about \$2.5 million) have been allocated.

Research and development in the field of the environment have also received 30 billion rials (about \$75,000).

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

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 42

An ab-bandan is a small man-made reservoir or flooded rice-paddy with a luxuriant growth of underwater vegetation.

In this case it is a reservoir. Most were originally built as temporary water storage areas to provide water for irrigation during the dry summer months.

However, many (including this one) also serve as private reserves for duck trapping during winter months.

The Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans are situated about 10 km west of the Gorgan Bay marshes. They are fed by irrigation ditches and local run-off, and drain east into the Gorgan Bay marshes.

The water level fluctuates considerably, and extensive mudflats are exposed at low water levels.

The ab-bandans do not appear to have been affected by the recent rise in water level of the Caspian Sea.

Hydrological values

The Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans are used as a source for irrigation water during the dry season.

Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay play a substantial role in the hydrological functioning of the coastal systems of the south Caspian.

Ecological features

Most of Miankaleh Peninsula is covered with a carpet of herbaceous plants and grasses. The western half also supports scrubby woodlands with scattered pomegranate, hawthorn, rhamnus and blackberry.

There are a few large willow trees planted around shepherds’ houses. Much of the shoreline of the bay is fringed with a broad belt of rush and there are some large areas of glasswort flats.

The extensive seasonally flooded marshes at the west end of the bay are dominated by sedges, with small patches of reed-beds, clumps of rush and a large stand of tamarisk.

As the water levels fell during the early 1970s the tamarisk force increased greatly, but as the Caspian Sea level has started to rise again, the forest has started to die back.

Cultivation bordering the bay in the south is predominantly wheat and cotton.

Open water areas of the Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans support a rich growth of submerged and floating aquatic vegetation.

The fringing marshes are dominated by

reed-beds, but there are areas with pomegranate and other scrubs.

The wetlands are bounded to the north by dune vegetation and to the south by arable land with cotton and wheat cultivation.

Noteworthy flora

Miankaleh Peninsula is covered with herbaceous plants, and grasses such as Agropyron, Bromus, Dactylis, Cynodon and Festuca.

At the western scrubby woodland there are Punica granatum (pomegranate), Crataegus (hawthorn), Rhamnus sp. (blackthorn), and Rubus sp. (blackberry).

There are some Salix willow trees , Juncus (rush) and Salicornia (glasswort) flats. The marshes at the west end of the bay are dominated by Carex spp. sedges, Phragmites (reed), Juncus and Tamarix.

The Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans have fringing marshes dominated by Phragmites australis reed-beds with some Typha sp. (reed-mace), but there are also scrubby areas of Salix, Ribes, Rubus and Punica.

Open water areas support rich growth of submerged and floating aquatic vegetation, mainly Ceratophyllum with some Potamogeton.

Noteworthy fauna

Miankaleh wildlife refuge is one of the finest waterfowl reserves in the Western Palearctic region.

Some 126 species of waterfowl have been recorded, of which about 40 have occurred in internationally significant numbers.

The reserve is extremely important throughout the year, supporting perhaps as many as 750,000 waterfowl throughout the winter months and large breeding colonies of herons, egrets, pratincoles and tens in summer.

It also serves as a major staging area for many species of shorebirds in the south Caspian region.

The reserve is especially noted for its large wintering population of grebes, pelicans, herons, swans, geese, surface-feeding ducks, diving ducks, shorebirds and gulls, and its breeding colonies of herons and egrets.

The change in water depth due to the earlier mentioned rise in sea level has brought about a change in the populations that make use of the bay.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

System to be set up for monitoring, forecasting agricultural drought

A system will be launched to monitor, forecast and report the agricultural lands being hit by drought, Amir Qaderi, an official with Disaster Management Organization has announced.

Over a meeting of a special working group for addressing drought and risks threatening agricultural sector, a plan for establishing a system for monitoring and forecasting agricultural drought in the country was approved and submitted to the Disaster Management Organization for review, he explained.

“Following the study of other countries’ experiences and existing global methods, the necessity of establishing a domestic system to recognize the lands prone to agricultural drought was emphasized,” he noted.

سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران ایجاد می‌شود

معاون امور بازسازی و بازتوانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور از ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران خبر داد.

به گزارش پایگاه اطلاع رسانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور، امیر قادری روز یکشنبه با اعلام این خبر گفت: طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران طی جلسه‌ای با حضور مدیران و کارشناسان سازمان مدیریت بحران و وزارت جهاد کشاورزی بررسی شد.

وی ادامه داد: پس از بررسی تجارب داخلی و روش‌های موجود جهانی، ضرورت استقرار نمونه بومی پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی مورد تأکید قرار گرفت و با مشارکت مراکز پژوهشی سازمان هواشناسی کشور و پژوهشکده حفاظت خاک و آب‌خیزداری طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران پیشنهاد شد.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 15

New cases	115
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,562,610
Total deaths	144,727
New hospitalized patients	49
Patients in critical condition	179
Total recovered patients	7,336,739
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,884,803
Doses of vaccine injected	155,292,371

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JANUARY 16, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Every religion has its distinct characteristic, and the distinct characteristic of Islam is modesty.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:14 Evening: 17:35 Dawn: 5:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:13 (tomorrow)

Jami: Life and works

Part 3 Literary works

Jami’s active career as a writer extended over almost fifty years, and he wrote a prolific amount of poetry and prose in both Persian and Arabic.

He turned his hand at one time or another to every genre of Persian poetry and penned numerous treatises on a wide range of topics in the humanities and religious sciences.

Waleh of Daghestan and other later biographers have claimed that the number of Jami’s works matches the numerical value of his name according to the abjad system, for a total of 54, but such a happy coincidence is no doubt too good to be true, and Saam Mirza’s list of 47 titles is probably closer to the truth.

Accurately ascertaining the extent of Jami’s corpus, however, is made difficult by the sheer number of surviving manuscripts and the multiple titles by which some of his works are known. A’lakhan Afsahzad provides the most reliable inventory to date, and his findings provide the basis for the following account.

Poetic Works: In its final recession, prepared at the request of Alishir Navai in 1491, Jami’s divan is divided into three separately titled sections: Fatehat al-shabab (‘Opening of Youth’), Wasitat al-eqd (‘Middle of the Necklace’), and Khatemat al-hayat (‘The End of Life’).

The titles and arrangement, however, are somewhat misleading. Containing more than 9,000 verses, the first section is longer than the other two sections combined.

A prose introduction preserved in some manuscripts shows that Jami first compiled his (untitled) divan in 1463 and dedicated it to Sultan Abu Sa’id.

Afsahzad argues that Jami revised this divan in 1468 and again in 1475, when he added the poems that he had written on his pilgrimage; a final version of this divan was then completed in 1479, for which he wrote a new introduction dedicating the work to Sultan Hossein Bayqara.

Despite its title, then, Fatehat al-shabab contains the lyric poetry that Jami wrote from the beginning of his writing career to his mid-60s, a period of some three decades.

The bulk of the volume consists of some 1,000 ghazals, but it also includes poems in all the prevalent shorter forms: qasida, tarji’- and tarkib-band, qet’eh, and rubai, as well as thirteen short masnavis.

In addition to poems on the sort of mystical and religious themes most associated with Jami, this divan also contains a number of panegyrics to various rulers, such as Abu Sa’id, Jahanshah Qara Qoyunlu, Sultan Ya’qub, and Mehmet the Conqueror, thanking them for gifts or congratulating them on the completion of building projects.

According to the datable occasional poems it contains, Jami’s second divan, Wasitat al-eqd, was apparently compiled around 1489.

Again consisting mostly of ghazals, it is half as long as its predecessor and less diverse formally and thematically;

perhaps its best-known poem is the autobiographical qasideh entitled Rashh-e bal be-sharh-e hal.

Half as long again is the third divan, compiled a year or two later; in addition to ghazals, qet’ehs and a few qasidehs, it contains Jami’s famous stanzaic elegy on the death of Khajeh Ahrar.

Jami’s seven long masnavis are known collectively as Haft owrang (awrang) (‘The Seven Thrones’ or ‘The Constellation of the Great Bear’). The first of these masnavis, Selselat al-zahab (‘The Chain of Gold’), is the most lengthy of the set and took the longest to compose.

Although all three of its three books or daftars are modeled after Sanai’s Hadiqat al-haqiqat, they might almost be considered independent works.

The first daftar was written between 1468 and 1472, and it was verses from this work that caused Jami so much trouble in Baghdad.

Like its model, the work treats a variety of ethical and didactic themes, illustrated by short anecdotes, and is notable for its critique of contemporary society.

The second daftar of Selselat al-zahab, composed over a decade later in 1485, is of similar structure, but more unified in theme, dealing throughout with the varieties of carnal and spiritual love.

The third daftar was written a year later and dedicated to the Ottoman Sultan Bayazid II and serves as a short conclusion to the whole work.

The remaining six works of the Haft owrang were completed in an intensive creative outburst of little more than five years. Salaman o Absal was dedicated to another distant patron, Sultan Ya’qub Aq Qoyunlu; the year of its composition is usually given as 1480, but Mayel-Heravi has argued for a date as late as 1484.

Based on an allegorical tale first alluded to in Avicenna’s al-Esharat wa’l-tanbihat and narrated in full in Nasir ad-Din Tusi’s commentary, Salaman o Absal tells the story of the misguided carnal love of the Greek prince Salaman for his nurse Absal, and the purification of his desires in a conflagration that consumes his lover.

The work gained some renown outside Persia thanks to the English version by Edward FitzGerald, the famous translator of Omar Khayyam.

The year 1481 saw the composition of two masnavis similar in both title and structure. Written in response to Nezami Ganjavi’s Makhzan al-asrar (and Amir Khosrow’s Matla’ al-anwar), Tohfat al-ahrar (‘Gift of the Free’) contains twenty discourses (maqaleh) on various religious and moral themes paired with illustrative anecdotes and, as its title suggests, was dedicated to Jami’s spiritual guide, Khajeh Ahrar.

Sobhat al-abrar (‘Rosary of the Pious’) is similarly divided into forty “knots” (aqd), each of which is devoted to a principle of the Sufi way. The central work of the Haft owrang, it is written in a meter that has no precedent in the masnavi tradition.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued.

Book viewing Baha’i faith as political body wins Jalal Literary Award

From Page 1 ► In this book, the writer compares the Baha’i faith with the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization, accusing its followers of spying on Iranian governmental centers.

The book also describes the Baha’i faith as an opposition group active abroad and in the country, lobbying against Iran in international political circles.

Esmaeili also says the Baha’i organization uses topics such as human rights and the environment as a cover for its activities.

The book illustrates that based on its new plan launched in the 1990s, the Baha’i organization ultimately aims to overthrow the Iranian government and take the control of the country.

The winners of the 15th edition of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards were honored in a special meeting at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on Saturday evening.

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

“Aqeela” by Elham Amin that fictionalizes the life story of Hazart Zeinab (SA), sister of Imam Hussein (AS), and “The Battle of the Straits”, a book by Mostafa Rahimi about IRGC commander Hassan Baqeri’s key role in Operation Fath al-Mobin during the Iran-Iraq 1980-1988 war, were awarded honorable mentions in the documentation section.

Hamidreza Esmaeili (R) accepts a prize for his book “Political Organization of the Baha’i Faith 1892-1979” during the 15th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards at Vahdat Hall in Tehran, January 14, 2023. (Fars)

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

The novel category had no winner, while “Sur” by Hossein-Ali Jafari and “Azrael: Veteran” by Nima Akbarkhani won honorable mentions.

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

In “Azrael: Veteran”, Major Hamidreza Hedayati is tracking

the enigmatic murderer Ali Alizadeh on a mission from Tehran to Nicosia in Cypress.

“Lover Virus” by Majid Rahmani was picked as best short story. This book comprises 18 short stories on various topics.

This year’s literary review category also had no winner. “Watching Narrative: Analytical Study of the Method to Transform Story Elements from Narration to Drama” by Majid Aqai and “Literary Self-Criticism: A Treatise in Self-Criticism in Literary Studies” by Mehrdad Nosrati received honorable mentions.

Several books were awarded

on the side sections.

In the Qassem Soleimani Section, “The Hajji Qassem Whom I Know: Narratives about a 40-Year Friendship” by Saeid Allamian and “Perhaps, Before Morning Prayer Call” by Ahmad Yusefzadeh shared the award.

“Jihad in the Quarantine” by Forugh Zal won the award in the COVID-19 and Health Defenders Section.

The award for best editing was shared by “This Is Syria: Women Are Talking about the War” by Zohreh Yazdanpanah and “Faces of Silence” by Mohammad Qaemkhani.

Iranian Artists Forum to review Kevin Macdonald’s movie on Ugandan dictator Idi Amin

Actor Forest Whitaker stars as Idi Amin in the acclaimed historical drama “The Last King of Scotland”.

From Page 1► The British-German co-production was released in the United States in September 2006 and in the United Kingdom in January 2007.

It grossed \$48.4 million on a \$6 million budget and received positive reviews, with acclaim for

Whitaker’s portrayal of Amin. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor and several other accolades.

While the character of Idi Amin and some of the events surrounding him in the film are mostly based on fact, Garrigan, Amin’s doctor, is a fictional character.

Foden has acknowledged that one real-life figure who contributed to the character Garrigan was English-born Bob Astles, who worked with Amin.

Another real-life figure who has been mentioned in connection with Garrigan is Scottish doctor Wilson Carswell.

Like the novel on which it is based, the film mixes fiction with real events to give an impression of Amin and Uganda under his rule.

While the basic arc of Amin’s rule is followed, the events in the film depart from both actual history and the plot and characters in Foden’s novel.

Cicero’s book on friendship published in Persian

A copy of the Persian edition of Marcus Tullius Cicero’s book “How to Be a Friend”.

TEHRAN – “How to Be a Friend: An Ancient Guide to True Friendship” by Marcus Tullius Cicero has been published in Persian.

Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book translated by Ali Sayyah.

In a world where social media, online relationships and relentless self-absorption threaten the very idea of deep and lasting friendships, the search for true friends is more important than ever.

In this short book, which is one

of the greatest ever written on the subject, the famous Roman politician and philosopher Cicero offers a compelling guide to finding, keeping and appreciating friends.

With wit and wisdom, Cicero shows us not only how to build friendships but also why they must be a key part of our lives. For, as Cicero says, life without friends is not worth living.

Filled with timeless advice and insights, Cicero’s heartfelt and moving classic-written in 44 BC and originally titled De

Amicitia-has inspired readers for more than two thousand years, from St. Augustine and Dante to Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

“How to Be a Friend” explores how to choose the right friends, how to avoid the pitfalls of friendship, and how to live with friends in good times and bad.

Cicero also praises what he sees as the deepest kind of friendship-one in which two people find in each other “another self” or a kindred soul.

Take a Hafiz Omens for Me

* How long did the process of researching and composing this book take?

It took around 2 years.

* How much did you use the element of imagination in writing this work?

When we have a story, we process it with our minds, and if we write the outline of the story, maybe it will be half a page, but with processing, it will become a book, so it requires special attention. However, this book was not an easy task, because every page could be the plot of a story, and God led me through it.

All the content of the book is completely real and documented, and the narrators are known. Only a few of the narrators did not want their names to be published, which did not appear in the book.

An interview with Zeinab Sodachi

A successful book, “Take a Hafiz Omen for Me,” is about General Haj Shaban Nasiri’s memories from eight years of imposed war and his long presence in Syria.

This book has been written by Zeinab Sodachi.

* What were your criteria for writing the book?

We have included the interviews we received, along with the names of the people who were interviewed, in order to present the content purely to the audience. This book differs from other books on the defenders of the shrine and the imposed war because the content is based on documents and reality. Every story and memory given in this book refers to the special characteristics of this martyr.

* Can you tell me what prompted you to make the decision to become a writer?

I have been writing stories for years now. Before writing this book, I used to prepare the content. I started this work in 2008, but no book was published under my name until 2016 when I was suggested to write this book on my own.

* Is there anything you are currently working on and what do you have planned for the future?

As a result of my education and expertise, I have authored children’s books titled “Real stories from real men” and the memories of martyrs are expressed in children’s language.

Another book is also being published by a different publisher about martyr Hassan Yadollahi.