

E3 Following in the Footsteps of the U.S.

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Report

Economic costs of Ukraine war

TEHRAN – The Ukraine war is one of the most important challenges in the world of politics, especially between Russia and the West.

The war was begun in February 2014 with a speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin and continues until now.

Putin told the Russian people that he was conducting a “special military operation” to “denazify” Ukraine and prevent NATO from expanding to Russia’s borders.

Many in the West see the war, which many consider it the most disruptive conflict in Europe since 1945, as a war of choice by Putin, but he says that NATO’s 2008 decision in favor of eventual Ukrainian membership brought an existential threat to Russia’s borders.

This article, aim to list the reasons for the start of the war, its process, and the costs of the war.

Reasons of war

Several important reasons for the beginning of the war have been listed.

Russia declared one of the reasons for starting the war to help the Russians living in the two republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, two separatist regions of eastern Ukraine in Donbas. ▶ Page 5

Report

Iranian forward Taremi steals the show

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Mehdi Taremi is the top star of Iranian football in European leagues, better to say the only star!

The Iranian national continued his scoring run in the Portuguese Primeira Liga, helping his side Porto to a 4-1 victory against Famalicao Sunday night.

Taremi scored the Dragon’s fourth goal with a spectacular header in the 48th minute. It was his tenth goal of the season in the 2022-2023 Primeira Liga and put him in the second place of the league’s top scorers table after Benfica’s Goncalo Ramos with 11 goals.

The Bushehr born striker jointly lead the table of players with the most assists in the Portuguese league.

To boost his eye-catching stats, the 30-year-old forward has helped Porto to lead the Group B of the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League with five goals and two assists. Porto will face Inter Milan on Feb. 22 in the UCL Round of 16.

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

Last week, Taremi was selected as the only Iranian player in the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) Men’s AFC Team 2022.

The Iran international has been so prolific with the Dragons since the summer of 2020 that Manchester United icon Rio Ferdinand preferred the Red Devils sign FC Porto star Mehdi Taremi rather than Besiktas’ Wout Weghorst.

The English signed finally signed the Dutch striker. However, speaking on Vibe with Five on Youtube, Ferdinand, who spent 12 years at United, revealed that he would have Taremi at the club over Weghorst. When asked about the Holland international’s potential arrival, the ex-defender said: “I’d have gone and got Taremi in from Porto.” ▶ Page 3



German police violently suppress anti-coal activists

German police on Saturday clashed with anti-coal activists at a protest camp in the abandoned western village of Lutzerath as demonstrators tried to prevent it from being mined for coal, according to private broadcaster n-tv.

Baton-wielding police used pepper spray and water guns to disperse the mainly masked protesters, who braved rain and strong winds.

There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries, as the situation did calm

down later in the evening, according to police.

Anti-coal activists expressed dismay at the crackdown in Lutzerath.

“What we are experiencing today and the last few days is pure police violence.” ▶ Page 5

SP phase 11 development plan to reach final stages soon: Raisi

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said phase 11 of the South Pars gas field development plan is going to reach its final stages in the near future, Shana reported.

“The development of phase 11 of South Pars continued strongly after the foreign contractors quit and it will reach the final stages in the near future,” Raisi said in a

cabinet meeting on Sunday.

Mentioning the recent increase in the country’s gas consumption due to the cold weather, the president said the completion of the South Pars phase 11 development plan would have had a significant impact on balancing the current mismatch between production and demand.



Fars Fajr Regions Theater Festival wraps up

A winners holds an award on stage during the Fajr Regions Theater Festival at the Hafez Cultural Complex in Shiraz, Fars Province, January 15, 2023.

This festival is a prelude to the Fajr International Theater Festival to select plays for the event, which is organized every year in late January as part of numerous celebrations for the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

5000-year-old stoneware workshop discovered in Jiroft

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have found the ruins of a stoneware workshop, estimated to date from the third millennium BC, during their recent excavations conducted in Jiroft, which is known as a cradle of civilization in southern Iran.

A team of archaeologists from the University of Tehran has discovered a wide variety of stone vessels and stone ornamentations

from the site of Hajjiabad-Varamin in Jiroft, IRNA reported on Monday.

Evidence suggests that a kind of recycling operation is practiced in the workshop, according to archaeologist Nasir Eskandari-Damaneh, the report said.

Seemingly, the stone containers and objects that were used or broken by people were not thrown away in Jiroft, but their bro-

ken pieces were brought to the production workshop to make smaller containers and objects such as beads and pendants, the archaeologist stated.

Jiroft, a fertile plain situated in Iran’s Kerman province, is a splendid cradle of civilization, which dates from the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC). Geological factors have led to it being overlooked for ▶ Page 6

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Tehran Papers

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

Saudi Arabia’s new game in Africa

Saudi Arabia is seeking presence in African countries, especially Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, to diversify its partners, the Etemad newspaper wrote. ▶ Page 2

Protesters demand return of assets stolen by Pahlavi family

TEHRAN- A group of political activists staged a rally on Monday outside Swiss embassy in Tehran demanding the return of assets stolen by the Pahlavi dynasty.

On the anniversary of Mohammad Reza Shah’s escape from Iran in 1979, they demanded that the Shah’s family should return assets owed to the Iranian government and people.

The participants issued a statement underling that “on this very day 44 years ago, the traitorous and criminal Shah fled abroad for fear of falling into the hands of the people and being punished in the Islamic Court of Justice in the wake of looting the assets from the people.”

They went on to add, “Such a huge theft was another notorious move got down in Pahlavi’s record.”

The protesters called for the return of 384 suitcases filled with jewels and unique antiques stolen by the Pahlavi family. “Such stolen assets are considered as the part of cultural heritage of Iranians,” they said. ▶ Page 2

Iranian culture impetus for Malaysian storyteller Nor Azhar Ishak

TEHRAN – Malaysian storyteller Nor Azhar Ishak has said that he has been influenced by Iranian art, culture and the skills of Iranian storytellers.

Ishak is competing in the 24th edition of the International Storytelling Festival, which opened on Sunday in the central Iranian city of Yazd.

He is scheduled to share his story “A Pangolin Story” during the festival, which is organized annually by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon.

“I hope Iran and Iranian storytellers would share their ideas and skills with storytellers in other countries,” Ishak said in a press release Kanoon published on Monday. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Saudi Arabia's new game in Africa

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

from page 1 ► In line with this policy, Riyadh is pursuing the following goals: Exploiting the geopolitical capabilities of these countries, promoting Wahhabism, attracting experts for its oil industry, guarantee its food security, etc.

The geopolitical situation of Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya are of importance to Saudi Arabia as the three have access to high seas.

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman also plans to build mosques and universities under the guise of cultural activities to promote Saudi influence, as there are Muslim minorities in all three countries. In this way, Saudi Arabia can also effectively promote Wahhabism in these countries.

For its oil industry, Saudi Arabia needs African skilled workers. Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are the countries that send migrant workers.

Riyadh is also trying to use these countries' fertile lands to produce crops to counter possible food insecurity.

Arman-e Melli: Let's follow JCPOA more seriously

In an article, Arman-e Melli points to the necessity of revitalizing the nuclear agreement, aka JCPOA, between Iran and the West, writing: Neither Iran nor other countries will not give up revitalizing the JCPOA.

As time goes by, the West raises more questions, but Iran should enter into negotiations with new professional negotiators before the time is over. The new team should have two characteristics: First, they should be expert on the issue, and second, they have to have authority and have to be more open-handed.

Of course, the recent positions of the European governments regarding Iran are greatly influenced by public opinion, but it does not mean that they cannot fully return to the JCPOA revival negotiations.

On the other hand, European countries' approaches towards Iran are much tougher than the United States. But regarding the pressure on Iran, the U.S. and the Europeans are unanimous to increase the pressure on Teran.

Although it is said that there are concerns about referring Iran's case to the Security Council, if Iran is serious about the negotiations to revive the JCPOA, the West still has not closed the doors to the negotiations.

Kayhan: Sympathy for a dead wood or fear of hitting the Western spy network?!

The hysterical and nervous reaction of Westerners to the execution of a spy is out of fear that Iran succeeded to deal a blow to the Western espionage network inside Iran rather than sympathy for a dead wood.

The arrest and execution of Alireza Akbari, a dual Iranian-British citizen who spied for Britain's MI6, has angered British officials, and in the past two or three days, from the prime minister to the foreign secretary and TV networks protested the execution hysterically and nervously.

Also, the reaction of other Western countries, including the United States and France, and Joseph Borrell, the European Union foreign policy chief, was also exciting.

Protesters demand return of assets stolen by Pahlavi family

from page 1 ► “Today, we have gathered outside the Swiss embassy in Tehran, which represents the U.S. interests in Iran, to notify the U.S. officials to return what Shah looted from Iranian people, otherwise, they will face the fury of the revolutionary nation,” they shouted.

The statement listed the following demands:

1) The accounts of the disgraced Pahlavi family in American and European banks should be blocked and all money in cash should be returned to the people of Iran.

2) More than ten palaces, islands, villas, and numerous other properties that were bought in America, England, Italy, Switzerland, France, Spain, etc. with the money of the Iranian nation, which are the properties of Iranians, must be returned to Iran.

3) 384 suitcases full of jewels and unique an-



tiques stolen by the Pahlavi family should be returned to the Iranian nation.

4) Iran's assets which are frozen in the American banks are the inalienable right of the Iranian people and should be returned. If it is not the case, it is our right to take the properties from U.S. through any legitimate means.

American experts admit sanctions fail to prevent Iran to becoming ‘prominent’ drone power

Iran has developed ‘over thirty-three models’ of drones

TEHRAN - Eric Lob, an associate professor of politics and international relations at Florida International University, and Edward Riehle, a retired American colonel who works on advanced technologies, sensors, and sensor processing in Northern California, have admitted that Western sanctions on Iran have failed to prevent Iran from becoming a ‘prominent player’ in drone production.

“Western sanctions have been unable to prevent Iran from becoming a prominent player in the military drone market and sharing drone technology with partners inside and outside of the Middle East,” Lob and Riehle wrote in the National Interest on Sunday

The writers were referring to decade-old sanctions on Iranian drone manufacturers like the Quds Aviation and Aerospace Industries Organization (IAIO) and the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Corporation (HESA).

“For years, the United States has imposed sanctions against Iran's military-industrial complex and manufacturing base, including entities like IAIO, HESA, Fajr Aviation Composite Industries (FACI), Iran Helicopter Support and Renewal Industries (PAHNA), and Iran Aircraft Industries (IACI), to name a few. Nevertheless, Iran's aerospace sector and drone industry have continued to expand and thrive,” they said.

Like IAIO, HESA has been sanctioned by the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom for over a decade, the writers acknowledged in their article titled “The Difficulty of Disrupting Iranian Drones.”



“For years, the United States has imposed sanctions against Iran's military complex and manufacturing base, including entities like IAIO, HESA... Nevertheless, Iran's aerospace sector and drone industry have continued to expand and thrive,” they wrote.

They said Iran embarked on producing drones in the mid-1980s, when Iran was resisting the invading Saddam Army.

“Iran has manufactured and operated military drones since the Iran-Iraq War in the mid-1980s. With over thirty-three models, Iran's highly developed, sophisticated military drone complex comprises one of the four pillars of its security strategy and force structure, complementing its missile technology, proxy forces, and cyberwarfare,” Lob and Riehle stated.

“Drones have increasingly offered

an asymmetric advantage to Iran,” they pointed out, adding, “Drones have also enabled Iran to project power and earn profits, showcase technology and enhance prestige, strengthen alliances in the Middle East and beyond.”

Earlier this month, the U.S. imposed sanctions against six executives and board members of Iran's Quds Aviation Industries under the false pretext that the Islamic Republic had provided Russia with the UAVs to be used by Moscow against Ukraine, Press TV reported.

Iran, on repeated occasions, has roundly rejected Washington's allegations. Last December, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said Ukrainian officials had failed to provide any evidence for their claim that Russia was using Iranian drones in the Ukraine war.

Russia has similarly denied deploying any Iranian UAVs in the war on Ukraine.

Lob and Riehle also said that Iranian drones are less expensive than their “Western counterparts and have proven to be effective on the battlefield.”

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, the Iranian armed forces chief, said last month that the Islamic Republic is currently among the world's top five powers in the unmanned aerial vehicles industry. He said Iran's drones can carry out various missions with great accuracy and flight endurance.

In May 2022, Baqeri held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Iranian drone factory in Tajikistan, its first offshore drone production facility.

Major Yahya Rahim Safavi, a top military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also said on October 18, 2022 that now 22 countries are seeking to buy drones from Iran.

“Iran's aerospace sector and drone industry have continued to expand and thrive (despite sanctions).”

“Today, we are at a point that 22 countries in the world have requested to buy unmanned aerial vehicles from Iran,” said Safavi, who was chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from 1997 to 2007.

UK infuriated on intelligence failure: MP

TEHRAN- The United Kingdom is fuming about intelligence failures following the execution of Alireza Akbari, an Iranian-British national, on charges of spying for Britain's spy service, MI6, an MP has remarked.

“The United Kingdom is not remorseful about Akbari's death. It is always willing to make compromises in order to achieve its intelligence objectives. It is enraged about an intelligence failure,” said Ebrahim Azizi, deputy head of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

He said that Akbari had committed treason against Iran and jeopardized vital military and security intelligence.

“All spies are dealt brutally over the world, and this is an internationally acknowledged reality,” Azizi noted.

He indicated that the British are furious because they have discovered that their decisions throughout the entire process went wrong as Iran's intelligence agencies had provided wrong information to their agent.

They were enraged when they discovered that Iranian security agencies had been keeping a close

eye on someone they had been investing on for years.

He came to the conclusion that there was no need to reply to the “baseless, unsubstantiated, and unreasonable” claims regarding Akbari's execution that lacked both national and international legal support.

Akbari, arrested some three years ago on espionage charges, was sentenced to death over disrupting Iran's internal and external security through the transmission of information to the UK.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Intelligence last Wednesday, it emphasized that Akbari was considered as a leading agent working for the MI6, collecting sensitive information from Iran in a bid to provide it to the spy service.

The report of his execution was announced on Saturday by the Iranian Judiciary.

The 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.”

In the reaction to his execution, British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly sent a tweet on Saturday night 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.”

Akbari had worked in various positions since 1360s (1980s), including the deputy minister of defense under the presidency of Mohammad Khatami.

During the process of obtaining a visa from the British embassy in Tehran, he was flagged by the intelligence agents stationed there and then became a full-fledged employee for the British spy agency.

Raisi discusses initiatives for consistent supply of medicine

TEHRAN - Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, has called for drawing up strategies to guarantee a long-term supply of pharmaceuticals and avoid seasonal shortages in the country.

Speaking at a meeting of the administration's Economic Coordination

Headquarters on Sunday in Tehran, Raisi urged the Health Ministry and other relevant organizations to develop comprehensive plans to progressively meet the public's demand for medicine and prevent seasonal and short-term shortages of pharmaceuticals.

Iran expresses sympathy to Nepal following tragic plane crash

TEHRAN- The deadliest plane disaster in Nepal in the last 30 years prompted a condolence message from the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry expressed sympathies to the Nepalese government and people as well as the relatives of the victims of the plane

disaster in a tweet on its Twitter account on Monday.

Rescuers have found 68 bodies from the 72 individuals on board the Yeti Airlines ATR 72 plane that crashed minutes before landing in Pokhara on Sunday in clear weather.

Ulyanov: Revitalizing JCPOA will reduce tensions in the region

TEHRAN - Permanent Ambassador of Russia to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov stressed on Sunday that the conclusion of the JCPOA discussions is a factor that will lessen tensions in the region.

In a tweet, Ulyanov stated that the best approach to avoid tensions

in the region is to conclude nuclear negotiations with Iran.

Advancements in the nuclear talks and reinvigoration of the JCPOA might lower regional tensions and pave the way for other talks targeted at enhancing regional security, the Russian diplomat noted.

“But the Western countries appear to be unprepared to do so,” he remarked.

If the United States, the side that had initially broken its JCPOA obligations, had accepted Iran's logical demands concerning the signing of a sustainable, just, and good agreement, the deal would have

been possible after months of intense negotiations, especially as the JCPOA talks were completion.

Iran continues to stress that a deal may be reached provided the Americans behave properly. Iran is seeking assurances that the U.S. would not violate the agreement once it is resurrected.

E3 following in the footsteps of the U.S.

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – With talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal hanging in the balance, major European powers has doubled down on their dependence on the United States.

Relations between Iran and Europe, particularly the three European signatories to the 2015 Iran deal -France, Germany, and the UK (E3)-are deteriorating as a result of hostile measures taken by the E3 over the last few months. The E3 began ramping up diplomatic pressure on Iran since last September, when nationwide unrest broke out in Iran in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody. While the unrest has come to an end weeks ago, the E3 continues to ratchet up pressure against Iran with the execution of Alireza Akbari serving as a catalyst in that regard.

The latest hostile move from the E3 was Germany summoning the Iranian ambassador over alleged human rights concerns. “I can confirm that the Iranian ambassador was summoned to a meeting at the Foreign Office today,” a spokesperson for the German foreign ministry said, according to Reuters.

By summoning the Iranian ambassador, Germany followed the path of France and the UK. This comes at a time when there are growing



debates in Europe about designating the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, a move that will further dampen hopes for a revival of the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

When former U.S. President Donald Trump designated the IRGC in 2019 there was a strong undertone of dissatisfaction in Europe out of concerns that the move would prevent the revival of the JCPOA under the next president. Fast forward to 2023, the Europeans are mulling listing the IRGC as a terrorist organization which is indicative of the extent to which the Europeans are ready to follow in the footsteps of the White House.

The E3 have signaled that they are open to the controversial move

despite the fact that the JCPOA talks are still underway. Peter Stano, the lead spokesperson for the external affairs of the European Union, said Monday that the JCPOA talks are still ongoing, according to Fars News.

But continued hostility from the E3 has cast a long shadow on these talks, if not killed them. Pundits believe that the E3 have joined forces with the U.S. to turn up the heat on Iran with the aim of pushing Iran back in the realm of foreign policy.

“Putting pressure on Iran with the aim of weakening Iran’s image among global public opinion, alienating it from allies, limiting Iran’s role in regional and international issues, and in a word, ‘pushing Iran back’ in foreign policy, are the most important goals three European countries along with the U.S.

have been pursuing,” Iran’s state news agency IRNA said in a report.

According to IRNA, they also seek to extract maximum concessions from Iran in the nuclear talks.

The rising tensions between Iran and the West in general also raised questions on what may come next. Observers believe that the current state of play between the two sides is not moving in the direction of de-escalation and that the possible escalation of tensions could at some point kill the last remaining hopes for a resuscitation of the JCPOA. Therefore, the West needs to think about the consequences of its moves on Iran, particularly after it signaled openness to reviving the deal.

However, Iran repeated calls for diplomacy was met with sanctions and threats coming from the West.

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, referred to this Western apathy toward the JCPOA talks. “The best way to prevent negative trends in the region would be finalisation of the #ViennaTalks on the #JCPOA. A breakthrough in this field can ease tension and open the way to intensified dialogue on regional security. Apparently Western countries are not ready for that,” he said on Twitter.

Iraq deployment of border guards is part of agreement with Iran: MP

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has said that Iraq’s move to reinforce border guards was part of a security agreement between Iran and Iraq.

The lawmaker, Ahmad Hossein Fallahi, pointed to Iraq’s decision to deploy 6,000 troops to the border with Iran and Turkey. “If security is not provided by the neighbors, our country will take action on its own, which will definitely cause border tensions,” he said.

Fallahi was commenting on recent remarks by Iraqi Interior Minister Abdul Amir al-Shimmari, who announced that Iraq has taken measures to bring under control the country’s borders with Iran and Turkey. “The Iraqi border is a red line, and there will be no dereliction in controlling them,” al-Shimmari told Al Arabiya.

He added, “There was a decision to control the borders with Iran and Turkey and to take measures to control these borders... Amounts of money have been allocated for maintaining the borders with Turkey, building outposts, installing cameras and building towers.”

Al-Shimmari revealed that more than 6,000 policemen are present at the border posts with Iran and Turkey in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Fallahi said during the past few years, Iran has had extensive cooperation to ensure the security of Iraq and it has given many martyrs in this way.

“Currently, we have reached a time when the Iraqi government has reached stability and has an army that should be able to control its borders,”

Fallahi said in an interview with the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He went on to express regret that the border of the Kurdistan Region towards Iran has become a route for the entry of weapons and movement of anti-revolutionary elements.

According to the recent memorandums with the Iraqi government, a brigade should have been deployed on the Iranian border and a brigade on the Turkish border to ensure border security, which has been done.

Fallahi continued by emphasizing that if the Iraqis control their border, “our costs” in providing security will also decrease and this is a two-way issue.

“The borders of our country and Iraq are long, and to ensure security, cooperation and participation of both sides is required, because no border point should remain unmonitored,” he insisted.

Fallahi pointed out that it should be noted that securing the border is not a voluntary action by Iraq, but is part of their duties.

“We hope that Iraqi forces will continue to provide the security of Iraq’s borders and there will be no need for Iran to enter into this issue,” he concluded.

Over the last few months, there have been close consultations between Iran and Iraq over border security. Iran has pummeled bases of Kurdish separatist groups in Iraqi Kurdistan, saying that the groups are involved in fomenting insecurity inside Iran.

“For years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a target of terrorist groups based in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. They have recently intensified their activities by illicitly transferring a huge quantity of weapons into Iran to arm their affiliates intended at performing terrorist operations, resulting in a number of civilian casualties, vandalism, and destruction of public and private property,” the Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York said in November non-paper.

The mission added, “While reiterating the responsibility of the Iraqi Government to maintain effective control over its entire territory

and internationally recognized borders, the Islamic Republic of Iran has shared irrefutable evidence and credible information with the Iraqi Government and authorities from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region about terrorist and separatist groups utilizing Iraqi territory to plan, support, organize and carry out terrorist and subversive acts against Iran.”

It noted, “- During several rounds of bilateral consultations and negotiations with officials from the Iraqi Government and the authorities of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, including a recent visit to Tehran on 25 October 2022, by the advisor for Iraqi National Security, Iran has requested the extradition of those who committed terrorist crimes and were convicted by Iranian courts, as well as the closure of the headquarters and training camps of such terrorist groups, and disarming of their elements. Iran has also underlined the need of stationing Iraqi military forces along its borders. The Iraqi delegation agreed to the requests and also committed to developing a timeframe for completing the disarmament of such terrorist groups.”

The mission further said, “To date, unfortunately, no effective measures have been taken to fulfill such agreements. Nonetheless, Iran has persistently stated its willingness to implement the aforesaid agreements, but to no avail.”

It stated, “In such circumstances, Iran has no choice but to exercise its inherent right to self-defense under international law in order to safeguard its national security and defend its people and has recently launched necessary and proportionate military operations against terrorist groups’ bases in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, which was meticulously planned and precisely targeted on terrorist locations.”



pay a visit to Turkey to attend a ministerial meeting about Syria.

The Turkish foreign minister said he would meet Amir Abdollahian next Tuesday and “the Iranian President can also visit Turkey in the upcoming days,” according to Al-Monitor.

Iran has stepped up diplomatic efforts regarding Syria. On Wednesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed Syria, among other things, over the phone.

In the conversation, President Raisi emphasized that regional issues can be resolved only through cooperation and coordination, citing the Caucasus region and Syria as examples. “The Islamic Republic of Iran always emphasizes strengthening regional integration and the harmfulness of foreign interference.”

Iranian pilot dies in South Africa accident

TEHRAN – A young Iranian pilot has lost his life in an accident in South Africa, the Iranian ambassador to the African country announced.

The pilot, named Aryan Assad, lost his life during a training mission on the outskirts of Johannesburg, Ambassador Mehdi Agha Jafari said on Instagram.

The ambassador described the incident as “painful” and offered condolences to the family of the pilot.

Jafari said the incident took place on Sunday.

IRAN IN FOCUS

JANUARY 17, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iranian forward Taremi steals the show

From Page 1 ► At the beginning of the year 2023, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) introduced the top scorers of 2022, and Taremi was ranked 4th on the list. The top players were Kylian Mbappé (Paris Saint-Germain & France), Erling Haaland (Dortmund/Man City & Norway), and Robert Lewandowski (Bayern/Barcelona & Poland).

It was the icing on the cake for the Iranian superstar, a man who according to a reporter on the Portuguese Sports TV channel “does not know how to play badly”.

Rezaei to remain Iran sitting volleyball coach

TEHRAN – Hadi Rezaei will lead Iran sitting volleyball team in the 2022 Asian Para Games, head of the sitting volleyball association Ali Kashfia said.

The legendary coach inspired Iran to win the 2022 Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in last year’s November.

“We will participate in the ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zonal Championships (PVAO) in Almaty, Kazakhstan in July as well as 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China in October,” Kashfia said.

“Rezaei will continue his cooperation with us until the end of the 2022 Asian Para Games,” he added.

Rezaei was named as an Honorary Life Member of World Paravolley in April 2022 due to his significant contribution to the organization over the years.

Ex-Osasuna midfielder Torres joins Foolad

EHRAN - Spanish midfielder Roberto Torres Morales joined Iranian top-flight football club Foolad on Sunday.

The 33-year-old midfielder has joined Foolad until the end of the season.

He was a member of Spanish football club Osasuna since 2007.

Torres was teammate with Javad Nekounam in Osasuna. Nekounam currently coaches Foolad.

Foolad sit seventh in Iran Professional League, 12 points behind leaders Persepolis.

Hosseinzadeh scores to help Charleroi defeat Cercle Bruges

TEHRAN – Iranian forward Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh scored for Charleroi in Matchday 20 of the Jupiler Pro League.

Charleroi won 2-1 against Cercle Brugge Sunday night. Charles Vanhoutte was on target for the visiting team in the 27th minute

Isaac Mbenza leveled the score before the halftime. Hosseinzadeh scored the winner six minutes into the second half.

In the Belgian Pro League standings, Charleroi move away from the red zone and climbs to 11th place with 25 points, one less than Cercle Bruges who remain in 10th.

Iran chess player ties with top Chinese rival in Tata Steel

TEHRAN – Top Iranian chess player Parham Maghsoodloo succeeded to draw with his prominent Chinese rival Ding Liren in the Tata Steel Chess Tournament.

The 85th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament, one of the most prestigious events in the international chess calendar, is being held in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, from Jan. 13-29.

Maghsoodloo and Mohammad-Amin Tabatabaei represent Iran in the international tournament. Maghsoodloo defeated the second world-class chess player. The Iranian champion, with the rating of 2719, could draw the renowned Chinese chess player Liren Ding, with the rating of 2811.

Magnus Carlsen with 1.5 scores stands first in the Tata Steel Chess Masters 2023. Maghsoodloo gained one score in three competitions to stand 11th in the event.

The format is a 14-player round-robin. The time control is 100 minutes for 40 moves followed by 50 minutes for 20 moves, then 15 minutes for the rest of the game, with a 30-second increment per move from move one.

Tabatabaei also succeeded in overcoming a rival from Slovakia. This Iranian chess player stands third after grasping 1.5 scores in the Tata Steel Chess Challengers 2023.

Taremi on target against Famalicao

TEHRAN - Porto football team got back to winning ways in the Primeira Liga after a comfortable 4-1 victory against Famalicao Sunday night.

Galeno scored twice in the 10th and 21st minutes and Otávio made it 3-0 on the stroke of half time.

Mehdi Taremi extended the lead three minutes after the break before Rui Fonte reducing the deficit in the 52nd minute.

Taremi was also denied a sensational goal in the 57th minute when his goal was ruled out by VAR for handball.

The Dragons reduced the gap at the top of the table to five points, the three-way battle for the title with Benfica and Braga well and truly on.

Iran’s women’s ice hockey into final: Kazan Cup

TEHRAN - Iranian women's ice hockey team defeated Bahrain (10-1) and Saudi Arabia (on penalties) to book a place in the final match of the “Russia – the Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2022”.

The Iranian women's team will play Tatarstan in the final match on Tuesday.

Iran’s men's hockey team also lost to the UAE 9-6.

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.

Coach keen to avoid Sayyadmanesh ‘mistake’ with strike duo

TEHRAN - Liam Rosenior does not want a repeat of the injury picked up by Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, after the Iranian international returned from a torn hamstring, before breaking down at Wigan Athletic earlier this month.

Rosenior will be mindful of what happened to the pacy 21-year-old.

“At the moment, I need to make sure. We saw with Allahyar, we brought him back and he made all the positive signs and then his injury reoccurred, and we don’t want that happening.

“That’s on me. I made a conscious decision along with the medical team, but I’m the decision-maker in terms of that,” Rosenior

“I felt terrible for Allahyar, and what I don’t want to do with Aaron and with Benji is put them in a position where they can’t be a threat for us in the next four or five months, rather than the next four or five games.”

Commodities worth over \$950m traded at IME in a week



TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed the trade of 2,165,000 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$950 million on its physical market.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1,679,139 tons of commodities valued at more than \$705 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,006,174 tons of cement, 604,600 tons of steel, 83,000 tons of iron ore, 10,025 tons of aluminum, 8,035 tons of copper, 900 tons of zinc, 500 tons of lead, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 24 kg of gold bars and 10,792 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 407,876 tons of commodities worth more than \$223 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 134,857 tons of bitumen, 98,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 96,649 tons of polymeric products, 39,390 tons of chemicals, 31,000 tons of lube cut, 6,075 tons of base oil, 1,800 tons of petroleum products and 955 tons of sulfur.

The IME also traded within the same week 78,279 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 10,931,107 tons of commodities worth over \$3 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Azar (ended on December 21, 2022).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1,791,743 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$991 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 526,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 491,023 tons of bitumen, 419,853 tons of polymeric products, 157,696 tons of chemicals, 120,500 tons of lube cut, 41,000 tons of sulfur, 23,788

tons of oil, 9,632 tons of petroleum products, 1,200 tons of insulation and 1,050 tons of feedstocks.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 9,133,701 tons of commodities worth more than \$2 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,592,219 tons of cement, 2,199,000 tons of iron ore, 1,784,395 tons of steel, 340,000 tons of sponge iron, 131,650 tons of zinc, 31,175 tons of aluminum, 24,731 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of cast iron, 750 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 100 tons of lead, 36 tons of precious metals concentrate and 272 kg of gold bars.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded 13,686 vehicles on its automobile trading floor.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 5,649 tons of commodities

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

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

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

TEDPIX gains 36,970 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 36,970 points to 1.68 million on Monday.

As reported, over 14,841 billion securities worth 90.575 trillion rials (about \$226.43 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 29,202 points, and the second market's index climbed 67,864 points.

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

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the

country's stock market has been passing through a challenging time but considering the government's support, the future of the market is going to be bright.

"The capital market has gone through a challenging period and in the past two and a half years, various issues occurred in the market that led to the creation of a heavy psychological atmosphere," Majid Eshqi told the press.

According to the official, various plans have been implemented by the government and SEO since October in three major axes and extensive efforts have been made to achieve the goals set for the market.

Mentioning a support package unveiled by the government, Eshqi noted that 10 strategies were considered in order to protect the rights of investors with an emphasis on long-term benefits, increasing the role of the capital market in the financing of development projects, and improving the effectiveness and smartening of the market's regulatory system.

Iran's stock market has been wrestling with drastic ups and downs over the past two years and the government has been trying many strategies to return calm to the market and make it the attractive investment place it once was.

SP phase 11 development plan to reach final stages soon: Raisi

From page 1 ► China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and Petropars which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), however, Total and CNPCI pulled out of the project in 2019 due to the U.S. sanctions.

Currently, Petropars is developing the phase 11 project after its partners left the contract.

The drilling operation for the first well of mentioned phase was officially started in December 2020. In the early production stage, the



output of this phase will reach 500 million cubic feet (equivalent to 14 million cubic meters) per day.

South Pars is the world's largest gas field, covering an area of 3,700 square kilometers of Iran's territorial waters.

The giant field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

Over 18.4m car tires produced in 9 months

TEHRAN- Iranian tire manufacturers produced 18,420,876 car tires in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (November 22-December 21, 2022), rising two percent from the output in the same period of time in the previous year.

This number of produced tires weighed over 196,238 tons, with one percent growth year on year.

According to the statistics, in the mentioned period, 121,943 tons of passenger car tires were produced, showing an eight-percent rise year on year.

Meanwhile, 18,823 tons of van tires were produced, indicating a nine-percent fall, and 38,355 tons of truck and bus tires were produced, showing a nine-percent drop.

Production of the tires of agricultural vehicles experienced a decline of 11 percent to stand at 13,958 tons, and that of road building and industrial vehicles fell 15 percent to 3,158 tons in the period under review.

In the first nine months of the present year, 14,119 tons of bicycle and motorcycle tires were also produced, indicating a three percent rise year on year.

Production of tubes fell seven percent to stand at 6,966 tons.

Iranian tire manufacturers produced 47,624,426 vehicle tires in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), which was one percent

more than the figure of the preceding year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The tire industry has a 60-year history in Iran. Currently, 11 tire manufacturing companies



are active across the country that produce tires for passenger cars, trucks, buses, vans, road construction, and agriculture machinery, as well as bicycles and motorcycles in addition to other types of tubes.

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

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

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

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

Monthly production of industrial companies active in stock market up 12.9% yr/yr

TEHRAN - The production index of Iranian industrial companies active in the stock market has grown 12.9 percent in the ninth Iranian calendar month of Azar (November 22-December 21, 2022) as compared to the figure for the same month in the previous year.

Based on the data released by the Iranian Parliament Research Center (IPRC), this is the highest level the index has reached in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), IRNA reported.

As reported, the sales index of the mentioned companies has also grown 15.7 percent in the mentioned month, year on year.

According to the IPRC report, automobile and auto parts companies had the best performance this month, so that the production and sales indices for this sector show a growth of 48.4 percent and 86.7 percent, respectively, compared to the same month of the previous year.

The production index of the pharmaceutical sector also reached the highest level in the last two years and increased by 25.6 percent compared to the same month of the previous year and seven percent compared to the previous month.

Last month, IPRC reported that



the revenues of Iranian industrial companies active in the stock market increased by 14.4 percent in the eighth Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 23-November 21) as compared to the figure for the same month in the previous year.

Based on the IPRC data, the

production index of the mentioned companies grew 8.2 percent in the mentioned month, year on year.

Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) had earlier announced that the revenues of 67 percent of the Iranian companies active in the stock market increased in the eighth Iranian calendar month as compared to the same month in the previous year.

Based on the SEO data, of the 39 major industries active in the stock market, 28 industrial groups earned more profit in the mentioned month compared to the previous year.

Export of citrus fruits reach 150,000 tons in 9 months



TEHRAN - Iran has exported 150,000 tons of citrus fruits valued at \$57 million in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), according to a senior official with the country's Agriculture Ministry.

Zahra Jalili-Moqadam, the director-general of the tropical and semi-tropical fruits office of the Agriculture Ministry, put the country's total citrus production in the current year at 5.6 million tons, of which 3.4 million tons were oranges.

According to Jalili-Moqadam, in the first nine months of this year, 107,000 tons of oranges,

37,000 tons of tangerines, and 5,000 tons of lemons were exported to other countries, IRNA reported.

Iran exported about 177,000 tons of citrus fruits worth \$66 million in the previous year, the official said.

She attributed the growth of the country's citrus production to the implementation of technical recommendations and optimal orchard management by gardeners in addition to the timely control of diseases and pests compared to previous years.

Flowers, ornamental plants export increase requires mass production

TEHRAN- Statistics show that in the last 20 years, the demand for buying ornamental flowers has been increasing worldwide.

It has taken a growing trend inside Iran as well, so that the cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants has expanded appreciably and the number of production units has now reached 15,000.

In the past, Mahalat city, in central Markazi province, was considered the hub of the flower production in Iran, but now other important cities have been added to Mahalat.

Tehran province is one of the

largest cities with 3,200 production units in the cultivation of cut flowers and seasonal flowering plants, Mazandaran province with the cultivation of apartment plants and plants for green spaces, Mahalat city in the cultivation of flowering plants and cut flowers, and the provinces of Isfahan, Kerman, Khorasan and East Azarbaijan are ranked next.

Iran has the 17th place in the world in the production of flowers and ornamental plants, but it is ranked 107th in terms of export.

Every year, three billion flowers and ornamental plants are produced in the country, of which only 300

million are exported. 50 percent of the produced flowers are sold domestically and the rest is thrown away.

As stated by the chairman of Flower Retailers' Association of Tehran, flowers and ornamental plants consumption per capita in Iran is 20, while the figure is 150 to 250 in the world.

"We must have mass production to reduce the price of flowers", Gholam-Hossein Soltan-Mohammadi has stated.

According to him, to produce flowers and ornamental plants for



export, it should be considered as an industry and the demands of target companies should be evaluated.



Economic costs of Ukraine war

From page 1 ► Russia has repeatedly stated that the two regions have a Russian majority and should either become autonomous or join Russia.

The Kremlin has declared racism against the Russians as the reason for the war.

Story of two provinces

After the Russian annexation of Crimea, Russians established self-rule governments in these two provinces. They were only able to take over parts of the two provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, so a struggle started to conquer the two provinces. Ukrainian government forces also engaged in a military conflict against the separatists. As a result, more than 14,000 people were killed and a many were displaced.

In 2015, with the mediation of France and Germany, an agreement was signed between Russia and Ukraine, which became known as the Minsk Agreement. The main goal of the deal was to end the conflict between the Ukrainian army and Russian-backed separatists in Donbass. According to the agreement, in exchange for regaining control of its borders with Russia, Ukraine gave these two regions autonomy in many areas, which was supported by the United States and its allies.

But the agreement was annulled by the war, and once again Donbass became the core of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and Putin said in his speech before the start of the war: The people's republics of Donbass have asked Russia for help.

NATO expansion to the East

As mentioned above, one of the most important reasons for the start of Russia's war against Ukraine was Kyiv's decision to join NATO; in another word, to expand

the military coalition to Russia's borders and threaten the country.

In his speech, Putin said: I will begin with what I said in my address on February 21, 2022. I spoke about our biggest concerns and worries, and about the fundamental threats that irresponsible Western politicians created for Russia consistently, rudely, and uncereemoniously from year to year. I am referring to the eastward expansion of NATO, which is moving its military infrastructure ever closer to the Russian border. It is a fact that over the past 30 years, we have been patiently trying to come to an agreement with the leading NATO countries regarding the principles of equal and indivisible security in Europe. In response to our proposals, we invariably faced either cynical deception and lies or attempts at pressure and blackmail, while the North Atlantic alliance continued to expand despite our protests and concerns. Its military machine is moving and, as I said, is approaching our very border.

Nuclear threat reason for start of the war!

Some sources say that another reason for the start of the war was Kyiv's threat to resume its nuclear program, and to prove it, they point finger at the statements of Dmitry Medvedev, the former president and prime minister of Russia and the current deputy of the Security Council of this country.

Ukraine's "threats" to resume its nuclear program were largely the reason for Moscow's "special military operation," Medvedev said on Nov, 7, 2022.

One of the reasons for conducting the "special military operation" was the "threats" by Ukrainian leaders that hinted resumption of the nuclear

program, which Kyiv relinquished under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, Medvedev wrote in a message on the country's VK social network, according to TASS.

"What do we see in contrast next to our own borders? Poor puppets from an inferior state, now weeping bitterly about the decision taken under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 to withdraw the nuclear arsenal located on their territory and inherited from the USSR," Medvedev said, following statements describing South Africa's accession process to the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Later, Medvedev said that Ukrainians always perceived Kyiv's accession to the international treaty as a forced step decided "under harsh pressure from Washington," adding that this was the case even though Ukraine "did not have the means to support the 'might' (nuclear weapons) that had fallen to it by chance."

He further said Ukrainian leaders, from former President Leonid Kravchuk to current President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have expressed that "they would be happy to use it (nuclear weapons) against us (Russia) and their own citizens (Ukrainians)."

Whatever the reason for this war, it cost a lot for the parties, especially the European Union, which was highly dependent on Russian energy.

This cost can be examined in two dimensions.

Direct costs

The war in Ukraine, which is called the most destructive in Europe after World War II, has cost a lot to the parties involved.

Ukraine imports most of the weapons it needs. Although the country does not pay for the purchase of these weapons, its supporters - Europe, the US,

and NATO - who are forced and committed to supplying Ukraine with weapons, bear the most costs.

Although the exact costs of these countries cannot be assessed, the cases announced by them show that Europe and the United States have incurred a lot of costs, some of which are as follows:

Short-Term Military Support (\$17 billion): This includes the transfer of weapons, both U.S. weapons and those purchased from allies, training of Ukrainian military personnel, and intelligence sharing.

Long-Term Military Support (\$10.4 billion): This consists of money that Ukraine can use to buy new weapons, mostly from the United States but also elsewhere.

U.S. Military Operations (\$9.6 billion): In the spring, the United States sent about 18,000 troops to Europe to strengthen defenses and deter Russia. These deployments cost money above what was planned in the DOD budget.

DOD General Support (\$1.2 billion): This covers a wide variety of activities, some only tangentially related to Ukraine, to prepare DOD for future conflicts.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs can also be referred to human costs, war refugees and the EU energy debate.

Europe, as a place on the front line of Ukrainian immigrants, suffered from two aspects. First, Ukrainian refugees directly entered Europe. Second, there was the issue of gas and energy crisis.

Nearly 8 million refugees fleeing Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, while an estimated 8 million have been displaced within the country by late May 2022. Approximately one-quarter of the country's total population had left their homes in Ukraine by March 20, 2022.

Another impact of the Ukraine war was on the European benchmark natural gas prices.

The countries of the European Union, as importers of Russian gas, were deprived of energy due to their positions, and the energy challenge has turned into a super crisis for several months.

The benchmark price spiked to 227 euros after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and to around 350 euros in late August. As of Jan. 3, 2023, the benchmark price is about 74 euros.

Of course, the same cases are also true for Russia; the country has also suffered a lot of financial losses in addition to the loss of lives.

The sanctions of the European Union and the United States against this country, especially in the field of energy, are one of these losses.

WORLD HEADLINES

Islamic State claims church bombing in east Congo; 14 dead

Islamic State claimed responsibility for a bombing of a church in eastern Congo as authorities said Monday that the death toll from Sunday's attack had risen to at least 14.

The Islamic State group and its Aamaq news outlet issued statements saying that its militants had planted an explosive device inside the Pentecostal church in Kasindi and detonated it while people were praying.

"Let the Congolese forces know that their continued attacks on the Mujahideen will only bring them more failure and losses," the group said in its statement.

The extremists claimed the bomb killed 20 Christians. Congolese authorities put the toll Monday at 14 dead and at least 63 wounded.

The injured were evacuated to Beni General Hospital by the UN peacekeeping mission known as MONUSCO, authorities said.

Mursal Nabizada: Gunmen kill former Afghan MP at home in Kabul

A former Afghan MP and her bodyguard have been shot dead at her home in the capital Kabul, Afghan police have said.

Mursal Nabizada, 32, was one of the few female MPs who stayed in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

Her brother and a second security guard were wounded in the attack on Sunday.

Former colleagues praised Nabizada as a "fearless champion for Afghanistan" who turned down a chance to leave the country.

Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, women have been removed from nearly all areas of public life.

Nabizada, from the eastern province of Nangarhar, was elected as a member of parliament from Kabul in 2018 and stayed in power until the Taliban takeover.

She was a member of the parliamentary defence commission and worked at the Institute for Human Resources Development and Research.

Burkina Faso unrest: Suspected jihadists abduct 50 women

Some 50 women have been abducted by suspected jihadists in northern Burkina Faso, local officials say.

Residents in Arbinda said two groups of

women were taken as they were out gathering leaves and wild fruits because of a severe food shortage.

A small number managed to escape and raise the alarm.

The abductions happened on Thursday and Friday, but news has just emerged, as much of the area has been blockaded by Islamist militants.

"The women got together to go and gather leaves and wild fruits in the bush because there is nothing left to eat," one resident told the AFP news agency, adding that they had left with their carts on Thursday.

"On Thursday evening, when they didn't come back, we thought that their carts had had a problem. But three survivors came back to tell us what happened," said another resident.

Arbinda in the Sahel region has been hit hard by the jihadist insurgency.

Roads in and out have been blocked by the jihadists, there is severe hunger as food supplies are limited, and the humanitarian situation is desperate.

Firms in Europe, US helping Myanmar manufacture arms, report says

Companies in the United States, Europe and Asia have been helping Myanmar's military manufacture weapons used in human rights abuses, according to three former United Nations experts.

Companies from 13 countries - including France, Germany, China, India, Russia, Singapore and the United States - have been providing supplies that are "critical" to the production of weapons in Myanmar, the Special Advisory Council on Myanmar (SAC-M) said in a report released on Monday.

This support includes licenses, raw materials, software, parts and components, the experts said.

As a result, the Myanmar military, which has launched a bloody crackdown on its opposition after seizing power in a coup in February 2021, has become largely self-sufficient in manufacturing a range of weapons, they said. Produced in factories known as KaPaSa and run by the military's Directorate of Defence Industries (DDI), these weapons include guns, ammunition and landmines and are primarily being used to quash resistance to the coup, the SAC-M said.

"Foreign companies are enabling the Myanmar military - one of the world's worst human rights abusers - to produce many of the weapons it uses to commit daily atrocities against the Myanmar people," the SAC-M's Yanghee Lee, a former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, said in a statement.

"Foreign companies and their home states have moral and legal responsibilities to ensure their products are not facilitating human rights violations against civilians in Myanmar," Lee said. "Failing to do so makes them complicit in the Myanmar military's barbaric crimes."

German police violently suppress anti-coal activists

From page 1 ► We are shocked at how the police are proceeding and condemn this behavior. We remain steadfast because we know what we are fighting for: climate justice!" tweeted one activist of the anti-coal group Lutzerath bleibt.

More than 10,000 people took part in the anti-coal protest as police were completing the eviction of the remaining protesters who retreated to underground tunnels.

Earlier in the day, Swedish climate activist

Greta Thunberg took part in a rally against the demolition of the village.

"The situation in Lutzerath is a huge international embarrassment for the federal (German) government," Thunberg told the German Press Agency in Cologne.

"People have been defending Lutzerath for years as part of a global justice movement. The fact that people are taking action is a sign of hope," she added.

Thunberg had sharply criticized the actions of the police clearing the village.

"It's outrageous how the police violence is," said the 20-year-old climate activist.

Since Wednesday, the police have been busy clearing and demolishing the area previously occupied by climate activists. Energy company RWE then wants to excavate the coal underneath. According to the government, this is necessary to ensure energy security.

German defense minister steps down amid mounting criticism

German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht resigned on Monday following a series of fiascos and sharp policy turns that increased pressure on the government.

Lambrecht told the German press agency DPA that she has offered her resignation to Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

"The months-long media focus on myself hardly allows for factual reporting and debate

anymore about the German armed forces (Bundeswehr) and security policy decisions," she said in her statement.

"The valuable work of the soldiers and the many people in my department must be in the foreground. That's why I decided to make my office available," she added.

Lambrecht was widely criticized by the opposition parties for failing to show leadership,

neglecting the severe problems of the armed forces, and for being slow with weapons deliveries for Ukraine.

The Social Democrat politician came under heavy criticism earlier this month after she posted a New Year's speech on social media, which was filmed during celebrations in Berlin.

"There's a war raging in the middle of Europe," she said, while fireworks in the background

made it hard to hear her words.

But she continued her speech saying the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war led to "many encounters with great and interesting people" and she was able to gain "many special impressions."

German opposition politicians and defense experts called the video an "embarrassment," urging the defense minister to step down.



The UK government plans to revise the law to give police more powers to crack down on protests, after demonstrations that have seen some people blocking roads or marching slowly.

5000-year-old stoneware workshop discovered in Jiroft



From Page 1 ► years by tourists and archeologists, who have generally been more interested in Mesopotamia some 1,000 km away.

Jiroft is surrounded by mountains on three sides, rising some 4,000 meters high. Many Iranian and foreign experts see the findings in Jiroft as signs of civilization, as great as Sumer and ancient Mesopotamia.

Nobody ever imagined that a sophisticated lost culture could reappear from the sands

of a remote and arid region in southeast Iran before the very early 21st century.

The story began when heavy floods in Jiroft's Bronze Age cemetery swept the topsoil off thousands of previously undiscovered tombs. Jiroft's impressive discoveries compelled a reevaluation of an earlier theory that Mesopotamia was the birthplace of civilization.

Unique items such as jewelry, weapons, finely crafted ceramics, drinking utensils, and game boards with unusual artistry and magnificent inlays of carnelian and lapis lazuli quickly made their way to antique markets for sale.

These extraordinary works featured intricate animal figures, both domestic and wild, fighting among themselves or with human figures, with humanity always coming out on top. There were exquisitely rendered bucolic scenes of animals grazing in vast palm groves and architectural replicas of temples or palaces.

Iran's flight seats increased by 40 percent

TEHRAN – There has been an increase of 40 percent in the number of flight seats in Iranian airlines over the past year, the head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) has said.

The number of flight seats increased by 40 percent in the past year as the demand for air travel increased 2.5 times, IRNA quoted Mohammad Mohammadi-Bakhsh as saying on Monday.

The number of operational planes reached 175 during the same period, the official added.

Increasing the aviation fleet is the government's strategy, and two ways are employed, purchasing used aircraft and overhauling existing aircraft to keep up with travel demand doubling, he noted.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots



such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

19th-century arch bridge in need of urgent restoration

TEHRAN – The 19th-century bridge of Zaman Khan in the southwestern province of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari is in need of urgent restoration, the provincial tourism chief has said.

There was a collapse of rocks on the northern wall of the historical bridge last week, Alireza Jilan explained on Monday.

Water has penetrated the layers of rock and frozen, causing parts of the rock to collapse, the official added.

Several other dangers regarding this bridge

were also noticed after a field visit by several cultural heritage experts, he noted.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari has various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which are exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

UNESCO sites at a glance



Archaeological site of Cyrene

A colony of the Greeks of Thera, Cyrene was one of the principal cities in the Hellenic world.

It was Romanized and remained a great capital until the earthquake of 365. A thousand years of history is written into its ruins, which have been famous since the 18th century.

Situated in modern Libya, was the oldest

and most important of the five Greek cities, known as the pentapoleis, in the region. It gave eastern Libya the classical name Cyrenaica that it has retained to modern times.

Located nearby is the ancient Necropolis of Cyrene. The traditional founder of the city was Battus the Lacedemonian, though the exact relationship between the fledgling city and other cities has led historians to question that narrative.

Particularly, the idea that Thera was the sole "mother city" is disputed; and the relationship with other cities, such as Sparta and Samian merchants, is unclear.

Cyrene lies in a lush valley in the Jebel Akhdar uplands. The city was named after a spring, Kyre, which the Greeks consecrated to Apollo. It became the seat of the Cyrenaics, a famous school of philosophy in the fourth century BC, founded by Aristippus, a disciple of Socrates.

Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System: project helps ease concerns over fate of UNESCO site

TEHRAN – Workers have commenced a restoration project to strengthen some fortifications of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, helping alleviate concerns about the fate of the allegedly unstable situation of that wonder of the ancient world.

So far, western walls of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System have been reinforced to end concerns of cultural heritage devotees over the safety of the UNESCO World Heritage site, Khuzestan province's tourism chief said on Sunday.

The project worth 470 billion tomans (\$1.75 million) includes the installation of retaining rods, and the implementation of a mesh network to fully stabilize surrounding walls, the official said.

Last October, cultural heritage enthusiasts warned about the unstable situation of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, saying some of its surrounding walls are "not in a good condition."

"It requires a national



determination as such a World Heritage site belongs to the entire humans, and we are responsible for this heritage to pass on to the next generation," they said.

The site previously closed its doors amid safety concerns after its western side was announced to be "unstable."

The ancient hydraulic system comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series

of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius, the Great, the Achaemenid king.

The property is as rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport,

and defensive system). The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian know-how; it was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

"The hydraulic system has been considered a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization," according to the UN cultural body.

Furthermore, one of its main canals is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert.

UNESCO says that the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System demonstrates outstanding universal value as in its present form, it dates from the 3rd century CE, probably on older bases from the 5th century BC. It is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional.

Seymareh dig uncovers relics dating from Parthian to early Islamic eras

TEHRAN – Evidence from life as early as the Parthian era to the early Islamic epoch has been found by archaeologists on the boundaries of Seymareh, an ancient town in southwest Iran.

New discoveries have been made by a team from the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism during a project conducted to help demarcate the legal limits of the ancient town.

"Recent excavations have revealed ruins and relics dating back to the Parthian, Sassanid and early Islamic eras," ILNA quoted archaeologist Jamal Sheikh as saying on Sunday.

The findings include urban elements and ruins of landmark buildings such as the market, passageways, houses, a caravanserai and a building believed to once be a mosque, Sheikh said.

"Currently, an area of more than 120 hectares has been remained from the historical town of Seymareh. If four layers of boundaries are taken into account, it covers an area of more than 200 hectares."

In addition to architectural remains, valuable finds such as exquisite stucco and pottery have



been obtained from the recent excavations, the archaeologist said.

Every corner of Seymareh embrace architectural remains related to ordinary houses, rooms, vaulted areas, and sewage disposal systems, etc, Sheikh said.

Seymareh was once the summer capital of Elamites, a pre-Iranian civilization dating from 2700 to 539 BC. The city also enjoyed centuries of prosperity during the Sassanid era (224 CE–651).

Covering an area of 200 hectares, the ancient city dates back to the Sassanid epoch and is believed to be built on remnants of the

Elamite capital, Madaktu.

The first archeologist to visit Seymareh was Sir Henry Rawlinson. He began an expedition to the site in 1836. Jaques de Morgan also visited this historical land in 1891 and introduced it as the same ancient city of Madaktu. Then it was Aurel Stein who attempted to explore it in 1936, according to Visit Iran, the official travel guide of Iran.

The archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects, like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers. The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC.

The name Elam was given to the region by others—the Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia—and is thought to be their version of what the Elamites called themselves – Haltami (or Haltanti) – meaning "those of the high country." Elam, therefore, is usually translated to mean "highlands" or "high country" as it comprised settlements on the Iranian Plateau that stretched from the southern plains to the elevations of the Zagros Mountains.

Chinese travel insiders explore Yazd on fam tour

TEHRAN – The central Iranian province of Yazd plans to host several Chinese travel insiders for a familiarization tour across the province in the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

With the ease of coronavirus restrictions and the high number of Chinese tourists, Yazd can make the most of its tourism potential by hosting a fam trip for Chinese tour operators, Mostafa Sepehri explained on Monday.

In addition to Yazd, the fam tour can also include Isfahan and Shiraz, which together form the golden triangle of Iranian tourism, the official added.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd



was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. It teems

with mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

It is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

Buildings are built of earth. The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas.

Wind catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways, together with streets, public squares, and courtyards, contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

National conference to discuss health tourism in Golestan

TEHRAN – The northern province of Golestan is getting prepared to hold a conference on health tourism on January 26, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Medical tourism and sustainable development, branding, and digital marketing for health tourism and nature tourism will be among the topics discussed at the two-day event honoring Gholam-Ali Beski, a late Iranian physician and environmentalist, Mohammad-Javad Savari explained on Monday.

As part of the conference, participants will also learn about lifestyle modification, nutrition, exercise therapy, and naturopathy's role in recovery, relaxation and harmony with nature's energies, the official added.

Born in 1931, Gholam-Ali Beski dedicated a lifetime to protecting the environment and promoting public awareness of climate change. He was known as the "father of nature", for his courageous efforts on preventing deforestation and conserving nature.

According to available data, Iran hosts an average of one million medical tourists each year. "About one million medical tourists, mainly from the neighboring countries, arrive in Iran annually," Mohammadreza Tarjoman, who presides over the Health Ministry's tourism office, said last April.

"The majority of inbound medical passengers come from the neighboring countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan," the official

said. Talking about hospitals and clinics, he said a selection of 200 Iranian medical centers have permission to accept foreign patients.

Experts believe medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency. Amongst Iran's trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people.

Iran seeks to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025–March 2026).

TEHRAN – The chief of the Department of Environment has said the implementation of the Clean Air Law will speed up in the next [Iranian calendar] year which starts on March 21.

With the support and sympathy of the government and the parliament, the implementation of the Clean Air Law will be accelerating, IRNA quoted Ali Salajeqeh as saying.

Speaking on the occasion of Clean Air Week, Salajeqeh said: “In next year’s budget bill, 20 percent of green taxes will be allocated to the environment to deal with air pollution.”

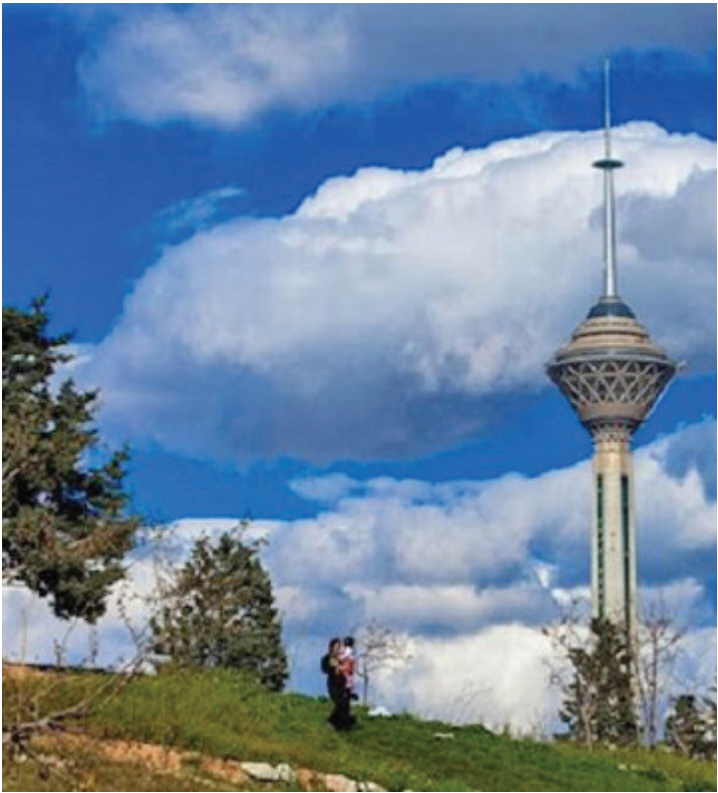
Green taxes include taxes on pollution, energy, carbon emissions, fuel consumption, waste production and disposal, use of natural resources, motor vehicles, and other taxes on transport.

The main key to reducing air pollution is public participation and increasing inter-departmental coordination, he said, adding that Clean Air Day has always been an important factor in boosting public participation and inter-sectoral coordination to combat air pollution.

He announced that the National Environment Award will be held in March and the 24th National Conference on Industry, Mining, and Green Services will be held on Clean Earth Day next year.

In the near future, the information on monitoring the implementation of the Clean Air Law will be available to the public through the portal of the Department of Environment, he highlighted.

Also, the National Environment Fund is responsible for providing



Implementing Clean Air Law to gather pace

loans and granting facilities to responsible bodies, industries, and municipalities to purchase and renew the equipment they need, he stressed.

Referring to the emphasis of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on environmental policies in order to realize a green economy, he said that attention should be paid to the development of low-carbon industries,

the expansion of clean sources of energy, waste management, the development of green and non-fossil transportation, and also the promotion of public transport, especially in big cities.

Clean Air Law

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

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

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

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

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

A total of 1.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$5 billion) is required to implement the Clean Air Law.

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

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

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

Work underway to develop Covid vaccines effective on new strains

From page 1 ► For instance, the U.S. has a high mortality rate even with mRNA vaccines, and France and Japan also have high mortality rates.

“But in our country, due to observing social distancing rules and wearing masks, we can overcome the new strains with the vaccines that we currently have in sufficient quantity,” he explained.

Panahi went on to say that there is no new vaccine specific to Omicron, neither in the world nor in Iran, but the world is intensively studying to update their vaccines for new mutations.

On January 1, deputy health minister Hossein Farshidi said three new strains of BQ1, XBB, and BA2, have been diagnosed recently in patients, warning that the new wave of Covid began.

Fast-developing Covid-19 variants are spreading over Europe, and severely infected France and Germany, he noted.

Emphasizing that the transmission power of XBB is five times higher than Delta, Farshidi insisted that borders should be monitored quickly and suspicious patients should be identified.

Within the next one to two months, the new wave of the pandemic will reach its peak, he further lamented, ISNA reported.

The rate of hospitalization of the new strains is the same as the Omicron, but the higher the



number of patients, the higher the percentage of hospitalizations, he also said.

He further emphasized that people should be injected with booster doses.

Medical researchers announced the risk of an Omicron variant emerging in the world that is resistant to all existing therapeutic antibodies, and the findings indicate that new treatments must be identified to deal with this variant.

According to new research at a German institute, BQ1.1, is resistant to all approved antibody treatments.

Omicron escapes neutralizing antibodies and causes symptomatic disease even in vaccinated or convalescent individuals due to mutations in the spike protein. This is known as an immune escape and is dangerous for high-risk populations, including the elderly and people with weak immune systems.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 43

Whereas before 1978 the profound species were the geese Anser anser and A. erythropus, now Anser anser has only been observed in small numbers, and A. erythropus has not been recorded anymore since 1989.

Coot Fulica atra, which was hardly ever recorded before the 1970s, is now the great majority of wintering waterfowl in the marshes.

Nine species of globally threatened waterfowl have been recorded in the reserve (see also the attached list of waterfowl counts).

The reserve is also very important for its large population of raptors. Twenty-eight species have been recorded.

Breeding species include osprey (Pandion halietus), short-toed eagle (Circaetus gallicus), and white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla).

A wide variety of land birds occur during the migration seasons, and a large number of larks, thrushes, finches and buntings remain throughout the winter.

At least 288 species of birds have been recorded at the reserve.

The Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans are used by a wide variety of waterfowl during the migration seasons and in winter. Few species occur in large numbers except Anas strepera and Fulica atra.

During periods of low water level in late summer and in autumn, the wetland occasionally attracts large numbers of migrant shorebirds like ruff, marsh sandpiper and little crane.

There are breeding colonies of whiskered tern,

great crested grebe, little grebe and moorhen. Up to three white-tailed eagles breed in the area, and peregrine (Falco peregrinus) and merlin (Falco columbarius) are regular winter visitors in small numbers.

At Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay the golden jackal (Canis aureus) and wild boar (Sus scrofa) are abundant in the reserve, and the jungle cat (Felis chaus) also occurs.

Caspian seals (Phoca caspica) occasionally haul out at the Caspian beach.

Social and cultural values

Gorgan Bay and the adjacent inshore waters of the Caspian Sea support an important commercial fishery.

The Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans are a traditional duck hunting area. There is also a little subsistence fishing.

Land tenure/ownership

The National Government owns Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay, the Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans are privately owned by the people of the nearby village of Zaghmarz.

Current land use

Site: fishing, both subsistence (Lapoo-Zaghmarz) and commercial (Gorgan Bay), cutting of reeds (Lapoo-Z), grazing by domestic livestock like sheep, water buffalo, goats, cows and horses (Miankaleh Peninsula), a fish processing factory (M Pen), some farms (M Pen), cultivation of cotton and wheat and some small villages (south of Gorgan Bay), irrigation and waterfowl hunting (both Lapoo-Z).

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 16

New cases	145
New deaths	0
Total cases	7,562,755
Total deaths	144,727
New hospitalized patients	70
Patients in critical condition	188
Total recovered patients	7,336,791
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,894,076
Doses of vaccine injected	155,299,297

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

59 Iranian universities among world’s top for academic quality

TEHRAN – A total of 59 Iranian universities are listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

The URAP ranking system’s focus is on academic quality. URAP has gathered data about 3,000 Higher Education Institutes (HEI) in an effort to rank these organizations by their academic performance based on several indicators, including article, citation, total document, article impact total, citation impact total, and international collaboration.

Data for 3,000 HEIs have been processed and the top 2,500 of them are scored. Thus, URAP covers approximately 12% of all HEIs in the world, which makes it one of the most comprehensive university ranking systems in the world.

۵۹ دانشگاه ایران در فهرست رتبه بندی URAP

در رتبه بندی سال ۲۰۲۱-۲۰۲۲ انستیتو انفورماتیک دانشگاه فنی خاورمیانه (URAP) که بر کیفیت تحصیلی متمرکز است، ۵۹ دانشگاه ایران قرار دارند.

این نظام داده ها و اطلاعات مورد نیاز رتبه بندی را در باره ۳۰۰۲ موسسه آموزش عالی جمع آوری کرده است که تقریباً شامل ۱۲ درصد موسسات آموزش عالی جهان است. از تقریباً از ۳۰۰۰ دانشگاهی که در این رتبه بندی ارزیابی شده است، URAP به معیارهای مختلفی توجه دارد که در مجموع بر عملکرد آکادمیک تأکید می کند.

