

From Beirut to Ankara Tehran's Active Diplomacy

► Page 3

Another Yoon chaffy gaffe on Iran

TEHRAN- While visiting Abu Dhabi, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, who is frequently criticized for making shallow gaffes, raised eyebrows on Sunday by declaring that Iran is the UAE's "rival and largest danger".

Yoon made such a remark despite the fact that Tehran and Abu Dhabi have made efforts to strengthen their relations.

The South Korean leader made a comparison between the supposed threat presented to his country by North Korea and what he dubbed the "threat" confronting Abu Dhabi from Iran when speaking to the Korean military personnel stationed in the UAE during a recent visit to the Persian Gulf Arab state.

Addressing the soldiers, he said, "The security of the UAE, which is our brother nation, is our security." Yoon added, "Iran poses the greatest threat to the UAE, whilst North Korea is our adversary. The UAE and we are in a very similar situation." ► Page 2

Iran detains German national over photographing 'sensitive' oil facility

TEHRAN- Iran detained on Tuesday a German national for photographing a "sensitive" oil infrastructure in the oil rich province of Khuzestan.

The German citizen was detained while photographing the oil facility in Omiyeh county.

Iran has made note of the fact that several foreign nationals, including Germans, had been detained recently in the midst of disturbances that started in the country September 2022.

One of riot ringleaders arrested

Tehran's prosecutor, Ali Salehi, also announced on Tuesday that a person who played a key role in whipping up uprisings in the country has been detained.

From the outbreak of the unrest in the country, a group of hooligans under the guise of protecting Iranians, strived to plan and create chaos throughout the country, the prosecutor said. ► Page 2

Tough task ahead of Iran at World Handball main round

TEHRAN - Iran will have a tough task ahead in the 2023 IHF World Handball Championship main round.

The Persians, who are 22nd in the Power Ranking, will meet 12th place Slovenia on Wednesday. Team Mellis will also face No. 2 France and host Poland who are No. 15.

It means the Iranian team will have a difficult task in the main round.

Veselin Vujovic's men finished in third place in Group A, beating Chile and losing Montenegro and Spain.

To play the world's heavyweight is a privilege for the Iranian handball team and will help the players to earn experience for the upcoming events.

Iran are ready to meet Slovenia at the Tauron Arena in Kraków in Group I.

They have a little chance to beat their opponents in the Round but the tournament has been satisfying so far.

The handball federation of Iran, headed by Alireza Pakdel, has done well over the past few years and the country's handball teams have shown strong performance in the recent years.



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Empowering women should be purposeful: VP

The first congress of influential women was held on Tuesday under the direction of the office of the vice president for women and family affairs Ansieh Khazali.

Addressing the congress, Khazali said empowering women and family should be purposeful and done in a proper way.

She went on to say that the criterion for selecting "influential" women was done among housewives, women employees, social activist women, as well as competent women in digital technology, social media, science and technology, entrepreneurship and those pioneer in areas of culture and charity.

"The purpose behind holding this congress was to identify influential women in individual and social and international arenas, and this took place through different means," she stated.

President Ebrahim Raisi also addressed the congress.

Tehran, Islamabad ink MOU to facilitate economic co-op

TEHRAN - Iran and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Monday to facilitate bilateral trade between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and Head of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Muhammad Zubair Motiwala, the TPO portal reported.

Based on the MOU, which was signed on the sidelines of Iran's Exclusive Exhibition in Karachi, the parties pledged to exchange business information, support each other's private sectors, and provide the conditions and context for the presence of their trade delegations in the other country.



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Iran, Russia cementing ties in line with strategic deals

TEHRAN- Secretary of the Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani on Tuesday stressed that Iran and Russia's expanding economic ties demonstrate their commitment to carrying out previous strategic agreements.

Shamkhani made the comments at a meeting in Tehran with Igor Levitin, a prominent Russian politician who works as Putin's aide. ► Page 2

Tepe Gariran: the story of a Bronze Age civilization

TEHRAN - Tepe Gariran in western Iran was surveyed in 1931 by renowned British archaeologist Sir Marc Aurel Stein (1862-1943), along with several other sites all over the ancient continent.

His discoveries and views were made public in a book titled "Old Routes of Western Iran: Narratives of an Archaeological Journey" which was released in November 1969.

Situated in the county of Alashtar, this prominent valley plain is part of the central Zagros mountain range.

The mount, however, after over 80 years in 2017, dragged the attention of new generations of archaeologists to resume excavations at the site, which is most notable for being home to a Bronze-Age civilization.

Iranian Indo-Europeans, including the Medes, settled in Lorestan around that time in 1,000 BC. Between approximately 700 and 625 BC, the Cimmerians and Scythians alternately ruled the area.

According to an essay discussed during an International Conference of the Society of Iranian Archaeology, excavations of Gariran, as a great Bronze Age site, which covers more than five hectares, revealed continuity from middle-late Chalcolithic to Iron Age. ► Page 6

According to an essay discussed during an International Conference of the Society of Iranian Archaeology, excavations of Gariran, as a great Bronze Age site, which covers more than five hectares, revealed continuity from middle-late Chalcolithic to Iron Age. ► 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.

EU's incoherent policy toward Tehran

In reference to the hostile policies of the European Union toward Iran over the last few months, especially after the start of the unrest in country, the Sharq newspaper has sought the views of three international relations experts, namely Hashem Partoy, Rahman Ghahramanpour, and Jalal Khosh-Chehreh. ► Page 2

IRGC Navy conducts military drill in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN- With the launch of several missiles, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy conducted on Tuesday a military drill in the Persian Gulf.

Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri, commander of the IRGC Navy, said that a wide variety of weaponry and gadgets, including helicopter-launched rockets, drones that dropped bombs with pinpoint accuracy, and unmanned smart submarine systems were used in the war game.

In the exercise, which was named after martyr General Nasrollah Shafiee, IRGC Navy commandoes had engaged in heliborne operations, he stated.

The commander noted that the war game's noteworthy elements included assault vessel combat operations, the launch of naval cruise missiles and rockets, the planting of naval mines in the exercise zone, and the destruction of a single target by cruise missiles fired from two distinct sites. ► Page 2

Art exhibit pays tribute to painter Habibollah Sadeqi

TEHRAN - An exhibition displaying posters and paintings opened on Monday at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran to pay tribute to painter Habibollah Sadeqi.

The 65-year-old artist, who was best known for his works on the Islamic Revolution and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, died of heart failure last July.

Sadeqi has been portrayed at the showcase in dozens of works created by artists such as Abolfazl Khosravi, Amir Dastmardi, Hamed Maghouri, Hossein Yuzbashi, Hamid Qorbanpur and Leila Nirumand.

Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, Visual Arts Office director Abdorreza Sohrabi, Sadeqi's family and a number of artists attended the opening ceremony of the exhibit entitled "Commemoration of Habib". ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

EU's incoherent policy toward Tehran

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

from page 1 ► Partoy refers to the meeting of the European Parliament to review the situation in Iran and says: "The meeting can end up drawing up a road map for Europe and other countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand... against Iran."

"Europe's policy against Iran, either proceeding in an independent way or in coordination with the United States, shows that the two sides are on the same page regarding Iran," Partoy opines.

While rejecting the argument, Rahman Kahramanpour says: "Although in the last two years with the election of Joe Biden, the gap (between the U.S. and Europe) has decreased and both sides agree on issues such as the war in Ukraine, China or Iran, but the Europeans somehow follow independency."

Ghahramanpour points to possible EU moves against Iran including designating the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps as a terrorist group or expelling Iranian ambassadors and says: "The European Union still does not have the ability to completely cut off its relations with Iran, because that will put an end for European supervision and management on Iran's nuclear case."

According to Jalal Khosh-Chehra, the first scenario will be sanctioning some military institutions and individuals.

The second scenario refers to the decision of the European Parliament to include the name of the IRGC on the list of terrorist groups. The final scenario is to cut ties and expel Iranian ambassadors.

He adds: "If the meeting of the European Parliament in France goes from sanctioning to declaring the IRGC as terrorist, it means that European and Western politics have moved from crippling Iran's economy to changing the regime, which is an illusion."

Beirut is waiting for improvement of Tehran-Riyadh relations

In an article, Arman-e-Melli points out the impact of US sanctions on Iran-Lebanon cooperation in energy and writes that during the visit of Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to Beirut, he announced that Iran is ready to send fuel to the country. Iran can meet Lebanon's energy needs in two ways: first, send fuel to the country through an agreement between the two countries, and secondly, to build power plant in the country.

But Lebanon will face sanction by the U.S. if it buys fuel from Iran. In addition to American sanctions, the level of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia also impacts Tehran's cooperation with Beirut.

"Given that the Saudi Arabia considers Lebanon as its backyard, the March 14 Alliance in Lebanon, especially the leaders of the Tayy?r al-Mustaqbal (Future Movement), is an ally of Riyadh, and also Saudi Arabia strongly opposes Hezbollah's influence in the Lebanese political scene. Some political figures in Beirut believe that if the relations between Tehran and Riyadh gets normal, or at least if the tensions are eased, it can reduce Riyadh's pressure on Beirut on its interaction with Tehran."

Farhikhtegan: Crossing Panama Canal is Tehran's latest move to expand influence in U.S. backyard

Farhikhtegan refers to the presence of Iranian ships on high seas and writes: Iran has recently sent two homegrown destroyers - IRIS Dana and IRIS Makran - for a mission to the South Pacific Ocean. These two ships left Iranian waters 4 months ago to carry out their mission, which has caused concern in Zionist circles.

The paper also mentions Iran's presence in the Panama Canal and writes: Crossing the Panama Canal is Tehran's last step to expand its influence in the backyard of the United States. By sending these warships Iran not only projects its power it can target its enemies within a radius of 2,000 kilometers if necessary.

By sending the warships to faraway waters, Iran also sends messages that it cannot be sanctioned, has the ability to monitor world trade, has the ability to attack faraway places. In addition, Iran has left behind previous levels of disputes with the West and entered a new level. Likewise, it has stabilized its regional power, able to respond to the needs of allies, expand its arms market, accelerate the transition of the global system to multipolar, decrease the US military power in the region, put pressure on extra-regional countries, take action against illegal moves, strengthen Iran's political position, reduce pressure on other military-security sectors, increasing deterrence, etc.

The Navy has also sent warships to Australian waters. There are reasons for the presence of the Iranian fleet there: trying to get into military interactions in East Asia, warning to counter disruption to oil shipment in the region, dealing with the AUKUS threats and involvement in interactions in the Antarctic.

Khorasan: PM Sudani on the rail of strange positions

While Iraqi PM Mohammed Shia al Sudani announced on his recent trip to Germany that no timetable has been set for the withdrawal of American troops from his country, Iraqi resistance groups have repeatedly warned about the continued presence of American forces in the country, Khorasan wrote.

In the meantime, Ayed Al-Hilali, a prominent member of the Iraqi Shiite Coordination Framework, says: There is a difference between the positions of Mohammad Shia al-Sudani and some parties in the Framework on the presence of the U.S. military troops in the country, in such a way that parties inside the coalition, insist on complete expulsion of these forces during Sudani's premiership, but he, along with some other parties, want the presence to go on.

Ayed Al-Hilali further stated: Not long ago, contrary to expectations, al-Sudani used a fake name in a statement about the [Persian] Gulf Cup of Nations. Since Iraq is an ally of Iran and Sudani is a close friend of Iran we did not expect him to make such a statement.

Abdul Zahra Al-Kanaani, an analyst and academic, also stated: The withdrawal of the U.S. forces is a fundamental issue and al-Sudani's statements may cause a crisis within the bloc.

The expulsion of American troops should be Iraq's response to the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani and PMU deputy leader Al-Muhandis, Al-Kanaani remarked.

Iran: Think tanks for espionage!

The Iran newspaper has investigated the execution of Alireza Akbari who had been convicted of spying for the UK, as well as the way the MI6 deceives spies from research centers.

The newspaper writes: MI6's performance shows that they have been focusing on individuals who are active in certain fields such as human rights, environment, society, and most importantly research activities.

with the foreign-backed intelligence services.

He also cast light on the way they recruited people, pointing out that from the outset, they were placed under the intelligence umbrella of the security forces, noting they made their strategy of exploiting the capacity of thugs and turning them into rioters.

Since the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, in police custody in mid-September Iran has faced Western-orchestrated uprisings.

Iran has said that Western nations, especially Germany, are responsible for inciting riots in the country.

from page 1 ► The South Korean president's most recent comments on Iran's ties with the UAE have drawn harsh vitriol from the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which demanded an explanation from Seoul.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is responding to Yoon "interventionist" comments about the state of the Islamic Republic's relations with the UAE, Nasser Kanaani, the ministry's spokesperson, said on Monday.

Kanaani said the South Korean president's words "reveal his complete ignorance of the historical and amicable relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral countries, including the UAE."

The spurious allegations made by the South Korean president has left a trail of his ignorance and lack of understanding towards high-speed and positive developments between both countries, the spokesman pointed out.

"The Foreign Ministry is diligently pursuing the recent positions of this country, especially the remarks made by its president, on the relations between Iran and the UAE," he said, adding Yoon's remarks "totally lack diplomatic validity."

Kanaani went to say that Iran is expecting an answer from the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

The latest move comes at



Another Yoon chaffy gaffe on Iran

a time when, in addition to its president's unguarded remarks, South Korea has been withholding billions of dollars of Iranian assets under the guise that they have been frozen as a result of Washington's unilateral sanctions against Tehran.

Unofficial estimates believed Iran has more than \$7 billion in funds in two South Korean banks. So far Seoul has refused to unfreeze them.

Prior to the reimposition of U.S. sanctions following Donald Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was South Korea's main source of oil and condensate.

In a clumsy move, the Foreign Ministry of South Korea hastily clarified that Yoon's comments were just meant to bolster the morale of South Korean troops deployed in the UAE.

IRGC Navy conducts military drill in Persian Gulf



from page 1 ► The head of the IRGC Navy also mentioned that his troops have exercised defense by detonating massive explosions off the coasts of Farsi Island and have used sophisticated submarine weapons to strike and destroy the maritime and coastal bases of the hypothetical enemy in coordination with Army Air Defense and Air

Force units.

He stressed that Iranian warships have secured long-term stability in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz, and that extra-regional forces are fully aware of Iran's readiness to respond firmly in the face of any danger or adventure.

Iran, Russia cementing ties in accordance with previous strategic deals

from page 1 ► He called for expediting efforts to implement collaborative economic initiatives between Iran and Russia within the framework of reciprocal agreements endorsed by the presidents of the two countries.

The senior security official also emphasized the need for Russia and Iran play complementary roles in the global energy and freight transit sectors.

According to Shamkhani, unilateral foreign sanctions on Russia and Iran will disrupt global economic growth and exacerbate existing global and

regional conflicts.

The top security official suggested that Iran and Russia have to work to establish cooperative institutions to fight the sanctions and to mobilize world forces against those who employ them against other states

For his part, Levitin provided an update on the collaborative initiatives between Iran and Russia.

Levitin noted that Russian firms are interested in investing in infrastructure projects in Iran due to the significant capacity in Iran's energy and car-

go transportation industries.

He predicted commerce between Iran and Russia will significantly increase soon.

Iran first VP meets Russian aide

Iran's First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber also held talks with the visiting Russian official.

They both underscored the need to continue meetings and increase coordination between the two countries as a step towards advancing joint initiatives.

They also emphasized the ac-

It also noted in a text message sent to reporters on Tuesday that Yoon's comments regarding Iran were "irrelevant" to Seoul's ties with Tehran.

Yoon's comment should not be "necessarily over-interpreted," the ministry advised, adding that it was made in the context of supporting South Korean troops in the UAE.

Seoul has a great commitment to advancing its cordial relations with Iran, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said.

"Our country has long maintained cordial and cooperative connections with Iran since establishing diplomatic relations with it in 1962, and our resolve to continue expanding the friendly bilateral relations with Iran remains steadfast," the ministry stated.

The blunder was embarrassing for all sides, according to Kim Joon-hyung, the former head of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy.

"Neither the UAE nor Iran were pleased with Yoon's words. Both countries should find this shameful," Kim added.

Yoon's first international trip this year, according to the liberal opposition Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), was a "diplomatic disaster" that gave the false impression that Seoul considered Iran as a possible foe.

Iranian, Belgian FMs discuss issues of mutual interest on phone

TEHRAN- In a late Monday phone conversation, Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian addressed topics of shared interest.

To discuss matters of common interest, Lahbib called her Iranian counterpart Amir Abdollahian.

The two diplomats talked on matters of mutual interest, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry's telegram channel.

They also expressed the wish for stronger than before ties between the two nations as a result of collaboration and cooperative efforts.

The two foreign ministers also talked about the most recent advancements in consular cooperation.

Iranian and Belgian diplomats spoke over



the phone for the second time since their most recent call on December 14, 2022.

Amir Abdollahian, Lavrov concur to postpone talks

According to a Monday statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry, Amir Abdollahian of

Iran and Sergey Lavrov of Russia have mutually decided to postpone their scheduled meetings for January 17.

"By mutual agreement, the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, originally scheduled for January 17, have been postponed," Russian news agency TASS quoted the Foreign Ministry.

When the talks will take place was not disclosed by the ministry.

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, had earlier stated that the two top diplomats would be talking about the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, cooperation in the UN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as the situations in Syria, Afghanistan, and the South Caucasus.

Iran criticizes Europe for human rights infringement

TEHRAN- Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, on Monday criticized the UK's hypocrisy in denouncing the execution of Alireza Akbari, a British-Iranian citizen who spied for the British Intelligence Agency (MI6).

In a series of tweets, Kanaani underlined that "the UK's action in violating the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been met with Iran's decisive intelligence and judicial response."

He added the "increased rhetoric of the UK regime and the support of some of the so-called human rights advocates in Europe for London show their lawlessness and violations of laws" that are based on justice.

"The British regime and those who turn a blind eye to this war crime are not allowed to instruct others about human rights," Kanaani underscored, noting, "A member of the British royal family considers the slaughter of 25 in-

nocent people to be the removal of a chess piece and is not embarrassed of it."

According to reports, Prince Harry acknowledged in his memoir "Spare" that he murdered 25 individuals in Afghanistan, comparing his actions to taking "chess pieces" abroad.

His memoir received harsh criticism from media, analysts, army veterans, and even the Taliban.

Afghans have rushed to the streets to demand that Prince



Harry be tried for the victims of the UK occupation of Afghanistan, which he has admittedly killed.

Iran detains German national over photographing 'sensitive' oil facility



from page 1 ► Salehi went on to say that based on the intelligence, it is revealed that the criminal group had had an unmediated link

From Beirut to Ankara Tehran's active diplomacy

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian left Tehran for Ankara on Tuesday morning for talks on the latest developments in the West Asia region.

The visit, which comes on the heels of a trip to Lebanon and Syria, highlights Iran's pivotal role in the recent developments in the West Asia region, particularly the process of normalization between Syrian and other regional countries.

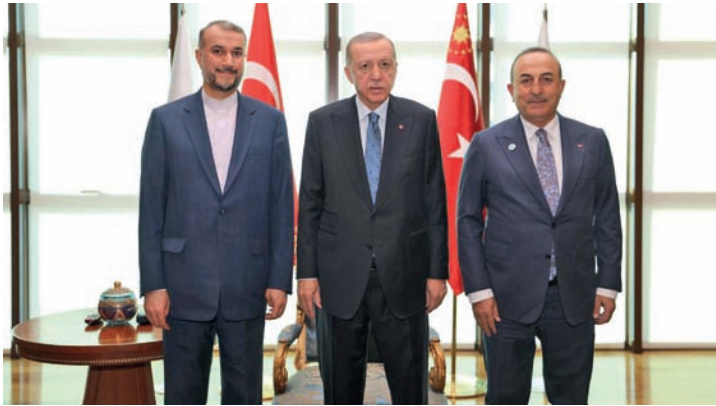
Iran's official news agency IRNA said the trip is in continuation of Amir Abdollahian's recent visits to Lebanon and Syria.

The Iranian foreign minister has recently travelled to Beirut and Damascus, where he met with high-level officials.

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

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

This comes against a backdrop of regional efforts to build bridges between Syria and the Arab world on the one hand and between Syria and Turkey on the other hand. To this end, President Assad paid a visit to the United Arab Emirates in March



last year. Also, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed visited Damascus in early January in further sign of growing ties between Syria and the UAE.

In parallel, Syria and Turkey are inching toward rapprochement after years of tensions. Recently, the defense ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Russia held a joint meeting in Moscow in what was seen as preparation for a meeting between the presidents of Turkey and Syria. Contacts between Syria, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia are underway for greater thaw, with Turkish officials seem to be keener to open a new chapter with Syria.

Before leaving Tehran for Ankara, Amir Abdollahian confirmed that he will discuss the situation in the Levant during his trip to Turkey.

“Following the talks that were discussed with Syrian and Lebanese authorities, developments in the Levant region and West Asia are on the agenda of the negotiations in the trip to Turkey,” he said, according to IRNA.

He added, “Today, according to the plan, we had arranged for me to

be both in Moscow and Ankara. The reason for that was some regional developments regarding the trip to Moscow and Ankara. Finally, we decided to travel to Moscow with some delay and today I will travel to Ankara.”

He noted, “In the trip to Ankara, the latest situation of bilateral relations should be discussed first. Mr. Erdogan, the President of Turkey, officially invited Ayatollah Raisi to visit Turkey, and the initial arrangements for this trip will be made at the highest level in Ankara.”

The Iranian foreign minister also said that his recent visits are due to the rapid developments in the region. “At the same time, due to the rapid developments in the region of the Levant and West Asia, two days ago we had a conversation with Bashar al-Assad in Syria and in Lebanon with the high-ranking officials of Lebanon, which will be on the agenda of the negotiations.”

He pointed out, “Also, consultations will be held regarding developments in the South Caucasus and important regional

issues that ultimately correlate with the security of the region. In the framework of Ayatollah Raisi's government's view of neighborhood policy and looking at Asia, more movements in this area are an important necessity today.”

In Ankara, Amir Abdollahian held two rounds of talks with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu. He also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In remarks after his meeting with Amir Abdollahian, the Turkish foreign minister said he discussed with his Iranian counterpart bilateral issues as well as developments in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, according to Al Jazeera.

“We discussed the Syrian issue and we call for the implementation of the articles of Astana regarding the territorial integrity of Syria,” he said.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Cavusoglu, Amir Abdollahian said he had “important and various” talks with Turkish officials, including a 90-minute meeting with President Erdogan.

According to Amir Abdollahian, a major part of the talks focused on bilateral issue, including ways to implement a joint comprehensive plan of cooperation between Tehran and Ankara.

He also touched on the growing trend of normalization between Syria and Turkey. “We are pleased with the development of relations between Ankara and Damascus, and we believe that this will be in the interest of the region,” the top Iranian diplomat said.

UK should be held accountable for massively spying on Iran: MP

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmaker Jalil Rahimi Jahan Abadi has called for holding the UK accountable for massively spying on Iran in security-defense issues.

Jahan Abadi, who is a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, defended the execution of Alireza Akbari, an Iranian-British citizen recently hanged after being convicted of spying for the UK.

“All over the world, spies and those who take actions against national security are sentenced to life imprisonment or death. In Iran, a person as an important figure in the Ministry of Defense and the Supreme National Security Council has passed extremely valuable information to the British and spied for them,” the lawmaker told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He added, “This person has confessed to all the cases that show through the information he has transmitted what actions he has taken against the security of the country and what damage has been done to our security. Therefore, we consider the punishment sentence issued based on the domestic criminal laws of the country to be fair. Usually, countries consider the death penalty for spying at this level.”

The UK has summoned the Iranian ambassador and recalled its ambassador to Tehran for more consultations in the wake of the

execution. It also imposed sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities.

Commenting on the UK response, Jahan Abadi said, “It is natural for the British to react to the execution of a person who was a valuable asset for them, who spied, acted in their favor and against the national interests of his country, and sold information to the British.”

He added, “By the way, we have to be in the position of demanding that the British country has carried out extensive espionage at this level in our security-defense issues. England's words have no legal basis, it is a clear interference in our internal affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must give a firm answer to the British's clear interference.”

In reaction to unreasonable interferences of Britain in the Islamic Republic's national security, British Ambassador to Tehran Simon Shercliff on Saturday noon was summoned by the director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's West European Department, according to a statement by the Foreign Ministry.

In the meeting, Iran's protest was filed with the British government against acts of sabotage against national security.

The director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's West European Department pointed to tangible information about the

trap set for Alireza Akbari by the British side, saying the UK government must be held accountable over its unconventional links that led to a breach of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national security. The director general noted that unjustified and mischievous support for a spy is at odds with claims of seeking relations based on mutual respect.

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

The director general added that the British government must accept responsibility for the implications of continuing its unconventional and meddlesome approach.

It was further underlined that under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dual nationality is not accepted and Britain's meddling and destructive statements under this pretext are unwarranted.

The director general, at the end, once again condemned any threatening and unreasonable act against Iran's national security and demanded that the British ambassador reflect the matter to London.

Simon Shercliff said that he would convey Iran's views to the British government.

EU's Borrell should focus on JCPOA revival: MP

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has called on the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to stay focused on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The lawmaker, Hossein Noushabadi, who is sitting on the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, pointed to the rising tensions between Iran and the EU.

“Josep Burrell, as the representative of the European Union, should have a more active role to resolve tensions. Because the Europeans were the cause of the current situation and existing tensions. In addition to interfering in Iran's internal issues, they showed that they are seeking to create a crisis in our country by illegally interfering in the affairs of

the Islamic Republic and supporting rioters, although they did not get any results,” Noushabadi told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He added, “Some European countries and JCPOA parties have activated their embassies and spy services in Tehran in the last three months, despite the fact that we did not interfere in the internal

affairs of other countries.”

Underlining that Borrell should seek to solve the crisis, the lawmaker said, “We have no prohibition to negotiate, although there are differences of opinion regarding the content of the negotiations and interests. But we adhere to negotiations that result in a suitable and practical outcome. So, Mr. Borrell should focus his efforts on solving these issues.”

Iran sends letter of protest to Iraq over PM remarks on Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday that Iran had sent a letter of protest to the Iraqi government after Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad al-Sudani used a “false name” for the Persian Gulf.

In an interview with Germany's DW channel, al-Sudani had used “Arabian Gulf” instead of “Persian Gulf.”

“The ministry has sent a letter of protest to Iraq over the comments,” ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in the letter.

It added, “Kanaani has responded to a question on the use of a fabricated name for the Persian Gulf by some Iraqi institutions and officials,



including the country's prime minister.”

“The use of the name, Persian Gulf, for this body of water is a historical, eternal, documented and undeniable fact and repeating a false name does not

change facts and brings no legitimacy to the false name,” Kanaani stated.

“The Persian Gulf has carried the name since thousands of years ago in documents, maps, travelogues and ancient texts and will carry the same name eternally,” the Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated.

Kanaani stressed that one cannot pay for attracting the friendship of others out of the rich wealth of historical solidarity among regional countries, saying, “Relations between Iran and Iraq are beyond institutions and individuals and are rooted in the history and civilization of the two countries.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

JANUARY 18, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran people just want gold, sitting volleyball coach Rezaei says



TEHRAN – Iran sitting volleyball coach Hadi Rezaei says that the people expect them to become champion.

As player, captain and head coach, Hadi Rezaei has been an integral part of Iran's extraordinary four-decade dominance in men's sitting volleyball.

The Paralympic champions did not even drop a set as they beat closest rivals Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo to confirm that they will be the favorites counting down to Paris 2024.

Not that they are taking anything for granted, as they also carry the weight of huge expectation on their shoulders.

“Our biggest challenge is that Iranian people expect us to become champions, which puts a heavy responsibility on our athletes and coaches,” Rezaei said. “In some sports, winning a championship in Asia or participating in the Paralympics is an honor, but it seems in sitting volleyball, participation and championship have different criteria.

“The criterion is that if we achieve the second place in the Paralympic competitions, it means that we have failed.”

Rezaei started playing in 1983, switching from handball. He captained the national team for 12 years, competing in three Paralympic Games as a player and six as a coach.

In the nine Games since Seoul 1988, Iran were Paralympic champions in seven of them. He puts the development of the sport down to a combination of factors and cites Atlanta 1996 as a particular high point when he captained the team and was recognized as the best player of the Games.

“The support of government, the people, clubs, sponsors, the beauty of the sport and the support for athletes,” Rezaei lists as reasons for its growth.

“We use modern science. Also there has been an integration of standing and sitting volleyball in terms of tactics. There is the use of maximum power of the disabled,” he said.

“Use of strength and speed in the implementation of techniques and tactics in sitting volleyball are very important. Ever since I was selected as a coach, I have tried to use all these things to promote sitting volleyball.”

Rezaei called it a day after Tokyo 2020 but was inundated with requests to return for the world championships. He is not sure what will happen in 2024.

“I believe at a certain time, a person must hand over his responsibility to others, and that is why I resigned. But the challenge of winning the championship in Bosnia was very interesting and important for me, so I decided to come back.

“Winning the championship in Bosnia was one of my honors in sports, knowing that the Bosnian team were at the peak of preparation at that time.”

Alipour scores against Vitória de Guimaraes

TEHRAN – Iranian forward Ali Alipour scored a goal for Gil Vicente to help the team beat Vitoria de Guimaraes 2-1 at Estádio Cidade de Barcelos.

Visiting Vitoria took the lead in the 17th minute, when Anderson found the back of the net.

Alipour equalized the match five minutes before the halftime.

Vitoria Guimaraes player Anderson was sent off in the 65th minute and Fran Navarro scored the winner with eight minutes remaining.

Gil Vicente moved up to 15th in the 18-team table of Primeira Liga with the win.

Brazilian forward Nicolas linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Brazilian center forward Nicolas Godinho Johann has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis.

The Iranian club are going to hire a striker as a replacement for Jurgen Locadia, who left the team the last month.

Nicolas, 33, has most recently played in Brazilian football team Goiás Esporte Clube.

The media reports suggest that Persepolis want to sign Nicolas in the January transfer window.

Persepolis lead Iran Professional League (IPL) table.

Iran to compete at 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Iran will participate at the 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship, which will be held in late January in Uzbekistan.

Team Melli Banovan is scheduled to face Kyrgyzstan on January 27 in its opener.

Iran will also play Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on January 28 and 30, respectively.

Iran will participate in the competition under leadership of Forouzan Soleymani.

The 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from January 25 to 31.

The Championship will be the second edition of CAFA Women's Futsal Championship, the annual international futsal championship organized by CAFA for the women's national futsal teams of Central Asia.

Iran are the defending champions, having won the 2022 inaugural edition.

Iran U20 football team travel to Jordan

TEHRAN – Iran U20 football team traveled to Amman, Jordan on Tuesday to play two friendly matches with Jordan.

The first match will be held on Jan. 19 at the at the Petra Stadium in Al-Hussein Youth City and the second match will take place in the same stadium three days later.

The matches will be held as part of the preparation for the AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2023, which will be held in March 2023 in Uzbekistan.

Samad Marfavi's boys are drawn in Group C along with Qatar, Vietnam, and Australia.

Iranian ice hockey teams runners-up at Kazan Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's men's and women's ice hockey teams finished in second place in the “Russia – the Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2022” tournament.

The Iranian women's team lost to Tatarstan in the penalty shootout after the match finished in 5-5 draw in regular time.

The men's team were also defeated by Tatarstan 7-3 in the final match.

The international event was held in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan from January 13 to 17.

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

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

Iranian ceramic, tiles exported to 150 countries

TEHRAN - The chairman of the Iranian Ceramic Society says Iran-made ceramics and tiles are currently exported to 150 different countries, IRNA reported.

Asghar Ahaniha said on Tuesday that the export of Iran-made products has significantly increased in recent years as new markets have been opened in Africa and Russia.

Since the cost of transportation is of great importance in exports, the Iranian producers prioritize the export of their products to the neighboring and regional states, he noted, adding that 80 percent of Iranian tiles and ceramics are currently exported to Iraq and Pakistan.



Some Iranian producers export 50 to 60 percent of their products to other countries because the high-quality Iranian products are comparable with European products, he said.

TCCIMA reviews next year's national budget bill in board meeting



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (2nd L)

TEHRAN - The 42nd meeting of the Board of Representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) was held on Tuesday in which the attendees addressed various subjects including the national budget bill for the next

Iranian calendar year (starts on March 21) and the issues related to the gas industry.

The meeting was attended by TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and members of the chamber's board, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the gathering, a report was presented on the current situation of the country's gas industry and international experiences in this regard were reviewed; the attendees also discussed some proposals to be included in the Seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026) and expressed their opinions and criticisms about the draft of the government's budget bill for the upcoming year.

Speaking at the meeting, Khansari pointed to some statistics about the country's economy, saying that non-oil exports have slightly decreased in the first nine months of this year compared to last year.

Commodities worth nearly \$360m exported from Yazd province in 9 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, over 2.537 million tons of goods valued at \$359.883 million were exported from Yazd province, in the center of Iran, during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022).

Mohammad-Hossein Salmani, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that the nine-month export shows five percent rise in terms of weight, but one percent drop in terms of value, year on year.

He named ceramics and tiles, types of hydrocarbons, rebar, nylon, and glass containers as the main exported items, and Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Oman as the major export destinations.

The official further announced that 98,489 tons of goods valued at over \$200.625 million were imported to the province in the first nine months of the present year, with 46 percent growth in weight, and 14 percent rise in worth, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

He named raw materials of production units, spare parts and production line machines, frozen beef and chicken meat, acrylic fibers, polyester thread, and paper and cardboard waste as the major imported items.

As previously announced by Salmani, the value of export from Yazd province rose 33 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), from its preceding year.

He said that 3.122 million tons of commodities worth \$491.466 million were



exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate five percent annual growth, he added.

He named ceramics and tiles, steel sections including rebars, steel ingots, nylons and granules, all types of light hydrocarbons, and molybdenum compounds as the major exported items, which were mainly exported to the neighboring countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, and Oman.

The official further announced that 103,706 tons of products worth \$267.648 million were imported to the province during the past year, showing 40 percent rise in value and 84 percent growth in weight year on year.

He named frozen beef and chicken meat, raw materials for production units, spare parts and machines for production lines and industry, acrylic fibers, and waste paper and cardboard as the main imported products, and Turkey, China, the UAE, Italy, Brazil, Netherlands, Iraq and Germany as the major sources of imports.

TEDPIX rises 6,300 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 6,373 points to 1.687 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 16.369 billion securities worth 94.628 trillion rials (about \$236.57

million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 4,174 points, and the second market's index climbed 14,347 points.

from page 1 ► bilateral trade and prepare the ground for the businesspersons of both sides to bolster cooperation.

He considered the holding of exclusive exhibitions, exchanging trade delegations, and investment in joint production units as positive steps for knowing the capacities and needs of the two countries and expressed hope that such events would continue.

The TPO head further mentioned some obstacles and infrastructural problems that are hindering the two countries mutual trade, including lack of banking relations, problems related to sea transportation and logistics, and tariff-related issues, saying that the Iranian government is willing to resolve such problems in collaboration with the Pakistani government.

Motiwalla, for his part, said that the signed MOU is regarded as a major step to enhance bilateral trade to reach the target of five billion dollars annually.

"Made in Iran" exhibition held in Karachi

The exclusive exhibition of Iranian products dubbed "Made in Iran" was opened in Karachi the capital of Sindh province in southern Pakistan, on Monday, aiming to showcase the capabilities of Iranian producers and to introduce Iran-made products to Pakistani consumers.

The exhibit was opened in a ceremony attended by senior officials from both sides including TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak, Consul General of Iran in Karachi Hassan Noorian, Governor of Sindh Kamran Tesori, and some other Iranian and Pakistani business officials.

The exhibit comes as the Islamic Republic of Iran has recently removed the ban on the imports of Pakistani products listed under the preferential trade agreement between the two countries.

Holding this exclusive exhibition is an effective step for increasing cooperation and coordination between the business people on both sides.

Mohammed Reza Barahoui, the director of Iran's exclusive exhibition, said on the sidelines of the opening ceremony in an interview with an

Tehran, Islamabad ink MOU to facilitate economic co-op



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (L) and TDAP President Muhammad Zubair Motiwala sign MOU documents in Karachi on Monday.

Iranian media outlet, that about 50 companies from different Iranian provinces operating in the fields of industrial and commercial services, including plastic and polymer materials, food industry, steel industry, copper, services, power plants, construction, turbines, textile machinery, and the construction industry are taking part in the three-day event.

The exhibition has been organized by TPO with the aim of increasing the trade balance between Iran and Pakistan, Barahoui said, adding, "The officials of the two countries are looking for establishing a constructive trade relationship and negotiations will be held on conducting transactions using a barter trade mechanism."

During a meeting between Pakistan's Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad-Ali Hosseini in Islamabad last month, the two sides explored the ways to expand and strengthen trade ties between the two countries.

Emphasizing the high importance

of his country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Pakistani minister said that Islamabad is ready to remove the obstacles in the way of increasing the volume of bilateral trade with Tehran.

Pakistan always considers its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran very important. However, the volume of bilateral trade is not favorable and for this purpose Pakistan is ready to take any kind of measures to address the existing obstacles, the official stressed.

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that Pakistan is ready to take all possible measures to remove the bottlenecks in order to significantly increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries.

Appreciating the economic policies of the government of Pakistan, the Iranian ambassador for his part said, "The historical relations between the two neighbors and the strong cultural and political relations require that our commercial and economic cooperation be at better and stronger levels."

The two countries have great

potential to expand cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and other areas, he emphasized.

After the mentioned meeting, the Ministry of Finance of Pakistan issued a statement and announced: "In this meeting, the opening of border markets, barter trade, free trade agreement and joint investment to increase the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan were discussed."

Since the beginning of the current administration in August 2021, the Iranian government has been strongly promoting and pursuing economic diplomacy, especially with the neighboring countries and the countries in the region; and as a longstanding trade partner of the Islamic Republic, Pakistan has been one of the major points of focus for the expansion of trade ties.

Considering the complementary nature of the two countries' economies, common cultural heritage, and positive political relations between the two neighbors, Iran and Pakistan have huge potential for economic cooperation, however, the level of exchanges between the two sides has not been satisfactory over the past few years.

Iran and Pakistan signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in August 2006 and the PTA, which came to effect in September that year, was expected to "create a new climate for economic and regional cooperation between the two countries" as stated in the agreement, however, nearly 17 years after the mentioned deal, the two countries annual trade is still under \$2 billion dollars.

Lack of proper banking relations and contrary customs regulations are said to be the main obstacles in the way of trade between the two countries.

Despite the above-mentioned issues and obstacles, Iran and Pakistan have set \$5 billion of annual trade on the agenda for the next year and to realize the mentioned target, the governments of the two Islamic republics have been taking various measures.

In November 2021, Tehran and Islamabad reached an agreement to use barter trade in order to boost bilateral trade in the face of U.S. sanctions.

CBI governor meets Russian delegates to follow up on joint action document

TEHRAN - Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin has stressed following up on the implementation of a joint action document between CBI and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, CBI portal reported.

Speaking on Tuesday in a meeting with a visiting Russian delegation headed by Igor Yevgenyevich Levitin, a senior aide to the president of the Russian Federation, Farzin emphasized the need for reinforcing monetary and banking cooperation between Iran and Russia.

"The Central Bank of Iran is ready to promote bilateral monetary and banking

relations with Russia as well as other friendly and neighboring countries at a high level in order to increase economic and commercial exchanges," the CBI governor said.

Referring to the capacity of cooperation between Iran and Russia in monetary, banking, economic, construction, and commercial fields, he said that developing relations between the two countries under the framework of the joint action document will create a clear outlook for the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Levitin, for his part, underlined reinforcing economic, monetary, and banking relations between the two sides.



CBI governor Mohammadreza Farzin (2nd R)

TCCIMA honors exemplary entrepreneurs

TEHRAN- Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) awarded Amin al-Zarb badge of entrepreneurship to 10 exemplary entrepreneurs of the country in a ceremony on Monday.

The seventh edition of the mentioned award ceremony was held at Vahdat Hall in Tehran on the occasion of the 139th establishment anniversary of the TCCIMA, the chamber's portal reported.

The ceremony was attended by TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and representatives of the selected top companies active in various fields.

Speaking at the ceremony, Khansari emphasized that the country's current economic conditions require the government to implement a wise approach, saying that this is not the time to create discord and the entrepreneurial community is ready to help the

government in this regard.

The Amin al-Zarb award ceremony was first held in January 2017 on the occasion of the 133rd establishment anniversary of TCCIMA and the second ceremony for awarding the prize was held in January 2018 concurrent with the 134th establishment anniversary of the chamber.

The mentioned prize is named

after Mohammad-Hassan Amin al-Zarb, a highly influential Iranian businessman (born in 1856), who was the first private sector investor in Iran and set up the first union of the private sector in the country. He was one of the most famous and influential entrepreneurs in Iran with many prominent achievements in entrepreneurship.

Orchard improvement plan implemented in pomegranate gardens this year

TEHRAN- As stated by an official with the Agriculture Ministry, orchard improvement plan was implemented in the pomegranate gardens of the country this year.

Zahra Jalili-Moqaddam, the director-general of the tropical and semi-tropical fruits office of the ministry, said that one of the programs of Horticulture Department of the ministry is the modification and renovation of orchards, which was implemented this year with the efforts of gardeners.

Stating that pomegranates are produced in all provinces except Hamedan, she stated that the area of orchards for this product is 90,000 hectares.

Nearly 40 percent of the country's pomegranate orchards need to be reformed and modernized, and it is necessary to carry out new gardening operations in the orchards, and for this purpose, it



is necessary to allocate the funds for the orchard reform and revival plan and pay them at the right time to the gardeners.

She stated that the share of Fars province in pomegranate production is 27 percent, Markazi is 12 percent, Khorasan Razavi is nearly 10 percent and Yazd province is about 10 percent in the country.

The official has predicted that the annual production of pomegranates will reach 1.2 million tons in the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

She considered the quality and taste of Iranian pomegranates unique in the world and said one of the characteristics of Iranian pomegranates is the health of the product and on the other hand its medicinal properties, which are welcomed by other countries.

The director-general of the tropical and semi-tropical fruits office of the Agriculture Ministry further said that the country's average yield of pomegranate production is 14 to 15 tons per hectare and added that last year the exemplary gardeners saw a yield of 80 to 100 tons per hectare.

The loan of a UK military officer raises further questions about impartiality of the office of the UN special envoy to Yemen when Martin Griffiths, a Briton, was in the post, Matt Kennard and Mark Curtis report.

The UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) secretly seconded a military officer to Yemen in 2019, it can be revealed. The officer was attached to the office of the then UN special envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

Declassified has shown that Griffiths' is a founder of, and adviser to, a private conflict resolution company, Inter Mediate, that works with the UK's Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6.

The MOD has told Declassified the military officer "works directly with and provides advice to the UN Special Envoy for Yemen regarding security and military issues relevant to the conflict in Yemen."

The MOD added: "The military officer is not based in Yemen but has visited with the UN Special Envoy."

The officer visited the Yemeni capital Sana'a on nine occasions, Declassified was told. But the UK government did not publicly announce the secondment, and there is no mention of it on the government website. Sana'a is currently under the control of Houthi forces.

Griffiths, a British expert in conflict mediation, was appointed as UN special envoy in 2018 after a campaign by the UK government. He held the position until August 2021 when he became the UN's under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs.

The secondment of the military officer raises further questions about the undermining of the appearance of impartiality crucial to the role of the UN special envoy. UK special forces are believed to have played a role in the war while the British military is maintaining the Saudi warplanes which have long operated over Yemen.

'UN Request'

The information was obtained by Declassified following a freedom of information request. It is not known if the military officer had a relationship with British special forces in Yemen or UK military personnel based in Saudi Arabia.

The defence section at the British embassy in Sana'a was evacuated to its embassy in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, in March 2015 as the Saudi air campaign — which was paused for several months in 2022 due to a truce — began.

An MOD spokesperson told Declassified:

"The UN requested a military adviser in order to support the planning and negotiation of a ceasefire in Yemen. The UK filled this role as part of our efforts to support the peace process."

The MOD added that since 2015 the only other UK military personnel who had been in Yemen was the defence attaché, who accompanied then Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on a visit to the southern city of Aden in March 2019.

However, the MOD refused Declassified's request for a list of the locations of Defence Intelligence personnel around the world, and special forces are not covered under freedom of information laws.

In July 2021, Declassified revealed that Britain has a secret detachment of up to



Britain's tangled involvement in Yemen

30 troops at Al-Ghaydah airport in Mahra province of eastern Yemen, where they are training Saudi forces.

Maritime security adviser

Declassified has also found that the UK military created a "maritime security adviser" position in Yemen in 2015. Costing between £80,000 and £90,000 per year, some of which comes from the aid budget, the post-holder was based temporarily with the UK Yemen Office Network at the British embassy in Riyadh.

The government states that this role focused on "improving Maritime Security to sustain humanitarian access and legitimate trade into key ports, as well as service delivery and improved governance."

The position raises questions in light of Saudi Arabia's naval embargo on Yemen's Red Sea coast, which UN experts have described as violating international humanitarian law. Human Rights Watch says the blockade has "severely restricted the flow of food, fuel, and medicine to civilians" during the war.

The UK is a strong supporter of the Saudi navy and has provided training on naval tactics that could be used for blockading Yemen, Declassified previously revealed.

The first maritime security adviser was Kevin Stockton, who served from October 2015 to May 2016 in "Defence Section Yemen," based in Riyadh. Stockton took up the position directly from being an adviser to the Saudis, as the Royal Navy's liaison officer to the Saudi Naval Forces headquarters.

The government stated that "the maritime position in particular has been an excellent value add for the UK Government." It added, "There should be strong consideration by MOD to transition this from a six-month deployment to 12 months to build on access and influencing opportunities."

The Royal Navy's current maritime security advisor to Yemen is Commander James Edwards, who is also based in

Riyadh. He describes his role as involving "Delivery of timely maritime security advice, guidance and analysis to the FCDO and MoD on the maritime security of the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden."

An MOD spokesperson told Declassified:

"A Maritime Security adviser provides the UK government with analysis and advice on threats to maritime security in the (Persian) Gulf, helping promote regional security and the protection of UK shipping in one of the busiest commercial shipping lanes in the world."

UK special forces in Yemen

The UK government maintains it is not a party to the war in Yemen but the British military and arms corporation BAE Systems, which works under contract to the MOD, maintains Saudi aircraft that have conducted thousands of airstrikes against Houthi forces.

The Yemen Data Project documents that these air raids have contributed to nearly 9,000 civilian deaths.

Britain is also training Saudi pilots on Typhoon fighter jets and UK military personnel are based in the Saudi Air Operations Centre.

In 2019, it was reported that "at least five British special forces commandos had been wounded in gun battles as part of a top-secret UK military campaign in Yemen."

The men were from the Royal Navy's special forces, the Special Boat Service (SBS), and received the injuries following battles in the Sa'dah area of northern Yemen, where "up to 30 crack British troops are based," it was claimed.

The SAS has also operated inside Yemen. In January 2019, a 12-man U.S.-UK special forces task force, comprising the SAS and the U.S. Green Berets, was reportedly flown into Yemen from Djibouti, ostensibly on an "humanitarian mission."

(Source: consortiumnews.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

UK teachers, nurses to strike further over pay disputes

Further strikes were announced by teachers and nurses in the United Kingdom (UK) on Monday, amid the continued cost-of-living crisis and lengthy disputes over pay.

If progress is not made in negotiations by the end of January, February will see the most widespread strike so far by National Health Service (NHS) nursing staff, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said on Monday.

The planned strikes follow walkouts in December and January. "We are doing this in a desperate bid to get ministers to rescue the NHS. The only credible solution is to address the tens of thousands of unfilled jobs -- patient care is suffering like never before," said RCN General Secretary Pat Cullen.

Interim Chief Executive Saffron Corderly at NHS Providers, the membership organization for NHS trusts in England, said the strike escalation was "very worrying."

"We've seen how disruptive these strikes can be, and more extensive industrial action is likely to have an even greater impact. Nobody wants this to continue happening," Corderly noted.

"We understand how frustrated nurses feel, and how they have got into this point: below-inflation pay awards, the cost-of-living crisis, severe staff shortages and increasing workloads have created near-impossible conditions," she added.

Turkey labels NATO applicant a 'terrorist propaganda center'

Sweden's refusal to investigate a Kurdish publicity stunt, which saw an effigy of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan being hanged in public, amounts to "supporting terrorism," Turkey's ruling AK Party has said. The incident has further strained relations between Ankara and Stockholm, who remain deadlocked over Sweden's bid to join NATO.

On Wednesday, a life-size dummy depicting Erdogan was hung upside down during a Kurdish rally in central Stockholm.

The group behind the protest, the Rojava Committee of Sweden, posted a video of the stunt on social media, urging the Turkish leader to resign if he didn't want to face the fate of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who was similarly strung up in public after his execution in 1945.

Turkey has summoned the Swedish ambassador to Ankara over the incident and demanded that Stockholm "take necessary steps against terrorist groups." However, a Swedish prosecutor refused to launch a

probe, arguing that the demonstrators had been exercising their right to free speech.

The refusal to prosecute means that "a terrorist group can take any action it wants in Sweden; it can threaten the heads of states of friendly countries," the spokesman for Erdogan's AK Party, Omer Celik, told reporters on Monday.

What the Kurdish protesters did "has nothing to do with free speech," he insisted, adding that Sweden has become the "propaganda center of these terrorists."

Ankara is currently stalling on the bids by Sweden and Finland to join NATO, accusing them of harboring "terrorists" from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other associated groups -- which have been banned by the Turkish authorities -- and demanding the lifting of an arms embargo on Turkey.

Sweden has since lifted the ban on the sale of weapons, amended its constitution to make clamping down on terrorism easier, and carried out several extraditions of Kurdish suspects to Turkey.

China's first population drop in six decades sounds alarm on demographic crisis

China's population fell last year for the first time in six decades, a historic turn that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers with profound implications for its economy and the world.

The country's National Bureau of Statistics reported a drop of roughly 850,000 people for a population of 1.41175 billion in 2022, marking the first decline since 1961, the last year of China's Great Famine.

That possibly makes India the world's most populous nation. UN experts predicted last year India would have a population of 1.412 billion in 2022 though they did not expect the South Asian nation to overtake China until this year.

India, however, only collects population figures every 10 years and its latest census, originally scheduled for 2021, has been delayed due to the pandemic.

Long-term, UN experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019.

That's caused domestic demographers to lament that China will get old before it gets rich, slowing the economy as revenues drop and government debt increases due to soaring health and welfare costs.

"China's demographic and economic outlook is much bleaker than expected. China will have to adjust its social, economic, defense and foreign policies," said demographer Yi Fuxian.



Peru has been roiled by political upheaval since the ousting of former President Pedro Castillo in December. The government of Peru has extended its 30-day state of emergency in the capital Lima, and the regions of Cusco, Puno, and the constitutional province of Callao. The state of emergency suspends several constitutional rights such as freedom of movement and assembly.

Top US official visits Ukraine, reassures Zelensky of continued deadly weapons supply

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman has visited Ukraine and reaffirmed Washington's military support for Ukraine during a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky in the capital Kiev.

Sherman led a delegation to Kiev on Monday and also met with members of Zelensky's presidential office, Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov and other senior Ukrainian officials, discussing sustained defense support to Kiev.

The visit came amid Russia's warning against Western intervention and fanning the flames of war in Ukraine.

The purpose of the visit is "to reaffirm the United States' strong and steadfast commitment to Ukraine and its defense," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

Price also said that the US delegation "heard from young



Ukrainians who have adapted their businesses and advocacy to support their fellow citizens even as they look ahead to Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction."

Russia has warned that the West's plan to supply Ukraine with heavy weaponry will only escalate the war and causes more civilian casualties.

Sherman's visit comes few weeks after Zelensky traveled to the US to meet with his American

counterpart Joe Biden and to secure more weapons as fighting escalates in the country.

During the visit, Biden pledged to further step up military support, including a new missile system, for Ukraine, despite Moscow's warning that delivery of such weapons to Kiev would only prolong the war and intensify the suffering of Ukrainian people.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, Western countries,

specially the US and the UK, have supplied Ukraine with a raft of lethal arm supplies, ignoring Russia's warning against fanning the flames of war. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has noted that any cargo containing weapons for Ukraine would become a legitimate target for Russia.

Moscow says it started its 'Special Military Operation' in February, aiming to to defend the pro-Russian population in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Luhansk and Donetsk against persecution by Kiev, and also to "de-Nazify" its neighbor.

Russia maintains that the West's anti-Russian agendas, including its eagerness for inclusion of Ukraine in NATO -- and, therefore, the military alliance's expansion right up to Russia's borders -- have forced Moscow to react against Kiev.

(Source: Press TV)

Copper coins, the highlight of discoveries in Chamshir Dam

TEHRAN – Among the most important historical artifacts identified by archaeologists who spent 40 days exploring an ancient site at the basin of the newly constructed Chamshir Dam in southwest Iran are two copper coins, Iranian archaeologist has said.

The coins, which belong to the period of Abish Khatun's rule, were discovered in an area that will be completely submerged as a result of the water release in Chamsheir Dam, ISNA quoted Ali Hojabri as saying on Tuesday.

Abish Khatun was the 9th and last ruler of the Salghurids of Shiraz from 1264 to 1282. She was declared the Atabeg of Fars on orders from Hulegu, a Mongol ruler (c. 1217-1265), who founded the Ilkhanid dynasty in Iran.

For weeks, archaeologists have warned against the planned inauguration of the dam because it may flood ruins and relics from the Elamite, Achaemenid, and early Islamic eras.

Earlier this month, archaeologist Mohammad-Taqi Atai said that 143 ancient spots, estimated to date from prehistoric times to the present era, have been identified during the investigations carried out in the reservoir area of the dam.

The area includes works and settlements from prehistoric times to modern times, and among them, there are the remains of important settlements from the Elamite, Achaemenid, post-Achaemenid, Sassanid, and a significant number of works related to the Islamic period, the archaeologist explained.

Ataei recommended administration officials avoided haste in the inauguration of the dam as a possible threat to ancient antiquities.

Chamshir Dam and hydroelectric power plant are being built 25 km southeast of Dogonbadan City on the Zohreh River of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province.

Last month, another archaeologist, Saeid Amir-Hajilu, gave notice that a large area of a Sassanid-Islamic site would be completely submerged as a result of the water release behind the dam. There is a high potential for answering ambiguous archeological questions of Iran about nomads from different periods in



the area surrounding Chamshir Dam, he said.

As mentioned by Amir-Hajilu, stone architectural structures, pieces of pottery, and glasswork have been identified and documented so far. It seems that the site was a seasonal winter settlement or a resort in the Sassanid period, based on the quality of the architectural structures and the surrounding landscape, he added.

About 70 percent of the archaeological site has been plowed and leveled by farmers, resulting in demolishing many relics buried in this area, he said. "Archaeological excavations have yielded poor results so far due to an extensive level of destruction by farmers."

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. Formerly known as Persia, the country's name mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis.

Moreover, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, and Tchogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633-656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224-651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

a variety of migratory birds every year, the official added.

This could gradually become an alternative to hunting birds by earning money from their presence, he noted.

Birdwatching, the observation of live birds in their natural habitat, is a popular pastime and scientific sport that developed almost entirely in the 20th century.

The northern provinces of Gilan, Golestan, and Mazandaran embrace a variety of freshwater lakes, wetlands, and lagoons, which are the main destinations for traveling pelicans, flamingos, ducks, swans, coots, and some other species.

Workshop to explore bird-watching in Mazandaran

TEHRAN – A workshop on bird-watching is scheduled to be held in the northern province of Mazandaran in the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Participants will have the opportunity to view birds in the UNESCO-registered Hyrcanian Forests, boat in wetlands, learn about 50 species of migratory birds, and practice traditional fishing methods, Mehran Hassani said on Tuesday.

A major tourist attraction in Mazandaran is bird watching, and efforts are being made to make this branch of tourism flourish in different areas throughout the province, which welcomes

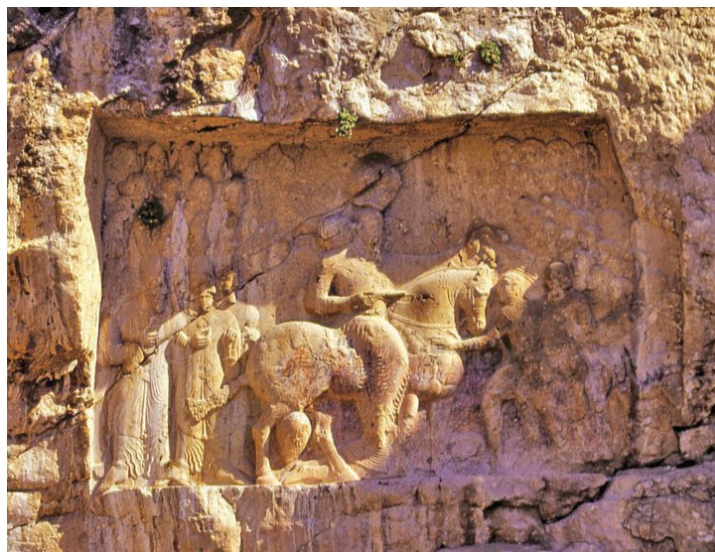
Sassanid bas-relief to enjoy protective shield

TEHRAN – Fars province's tourism director is implementing protective measures around an ancient bas-relief carving that depicts the victory of the Sasanian king Shapur I over the Roman emperor Valerian in c. 260 CE.

Fencing has previously been implemented to physically protect the relief motifs, and completion of the stone wall of the eastern side area is underway, Fars Province's tourism chief said on Monday.

Registered in the national list of cultural heritage, the Shapur's bas-relief is situated in Darab at a distance of 245 km from Shiraz, the official said.

In 2018, UNESCO added an



ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its

World Heritage list.

Eight archaeological sites that make up the ensemble are spread across three geographical regions: Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It demonstrates the effective use of topographic features and attests to the influence of Roman art as well as Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions, which later had a big influence on Islamic-era architecture and artistic movements.

The early cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization were built using a highly effective system of land use and strategic use of the topography found in the Sassanid archaeological landscape.

Tepe Gariran: the story of a Bronze Age civilization

From Page 1 ► The identification of settlement patterns can provide important information about regional and cross-regional communications in this area.

Due to its exceptional position and the importance of its sites, this plain has been the subject of the growing attention of ancient geographers and geologists.

In the Parthian and Sassanid texts, there has been no reference to the city and plains of Alashtar, but the historians from the early centuries to the contemporary Islamic era have mentioned the name Alashtar in their books.

From an archeological point of view, in 1936, Sir Aurel Stein entered Alashtar to study the settlement sites and the cemeteries introducing Lorestan bronze, which were located across the Karkheh and Seymareh River. He then started examining Gariran and Betki Hills.

Ernst Herzfeld was also among the researchers who investigated the bronzes in Lorestan and visited the relics and artifacts in the Alashtar Plain (Herzfeld, 1941). In his

studies from 1963 to 1967, Clare Goff visited some parts of Alashtar as well.

In total, 72 archaeological sites were found in the Alashtar plain, 42 of which were from the Parthian era, given the dispersion of artifacts in the area (including pottery and surface material).

Alashtar is a fertile plain with great potential for agriculture. Even though the majority of these sites have been destroyed today due to agricultural activities, the Parthian period (compared to other eras) played a significant role in the development of settlements on this plain. The majority of the Parthian sites in this plain were situated inside these fertile agricultural lands.

The surrounding mountains are covered in forest trees and wild plants, and there is a variety of flora and fauna on the plain.

Due to the favorable climatic and ecological conditions, a variety of crops and trees can now be found in the area as a result of the fertile nature of this plain that has encouraged the cultivation of crops and vegetation.



The region is rich in sycamore, cherry, cranberry, walnut, apple, grape, willow, poplar, pear, and other trees. In addition to forest trees, non-edible plants like salsify, artichokes, oregano, and mint as well as a variety of medicinal and aromatic plants like borage, daphnia, thyme, basil flowers, violet, damask rose, rose, anemone, musk willow, tulips, licorice, lily, hibiscus flowers, narcissus, and mountain tea grow.

The obvious conclusion from this is that since the Iron Age, the environment and climate of Lorestan have not fundamentally changed.

Iron Age earthenware restored in Semnan laboratory

TEHRAN – A number of ancient earthenware, estimated to date from the Iron Age, has recently been restored to the closest original state at a special laboratory in Semnan province.

The relics have been excavated from Mersin cemetery, which is situated close to the Sefidrud River on the southern flanks of the Alborz mountain range in Mehdishahr county of the north-central province.

Documentation, preparation of special certificates, the removal of sediments from the surface, re-joining and strengthening, reconstruction of missing parts, and color matching were done in this stage of restoration, a local



tourism official said on Tuesday.

Rescue excavations in Mersin cemetery started in 2014 to investigate burial methods, social classes, and trade relations based on the burial objects, the official added.

A rescue archaeological survey in the Fenisk Dam basin area uncovered the site. The cemetery was dated to the late

Iron Age III and early Iron Age IV (c. 600-400 BC). Human collagen from several graves was given a radiocarbon date to support this dating.

The Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research began conducting regular excavations at the site under the supervision of Malekzadeh in August 2014 because the Iron Age culture in the province of Semnan has not been widely recognized. Over a total area of 235 square meters, three trenches were dug. There were fifteen human graves distributed evenly throughout trench three (10 by 5 meters). While some graves were disturbed, it was still possible to identify them by their common characteristics, such as their rectangular shape and

the presence of a single body laid to rest on its back in each grave. All graves except grave 4—which was disturbed—had large stones separating them from the resting place and contained grave goods.

Graves 5 and 10 are examples of graves covered by large, flat slabs of wood and soil, while the remaining graves can be categorized into one of two general categories: graves with only soil coverings. The body is not always buried in the same direction. There were a variety of grave goods, including pottery vessels of various types, including single-handled pitchers, bridge spout bowls, pots with spouts and handles, small jars, pedestal bowls, and twin-joined small jars.

Qajar-era Tekyeh being restored to former glory

TEHRAN – The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Moaven al-Molk Tekyeh in the western Kermanshah province has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

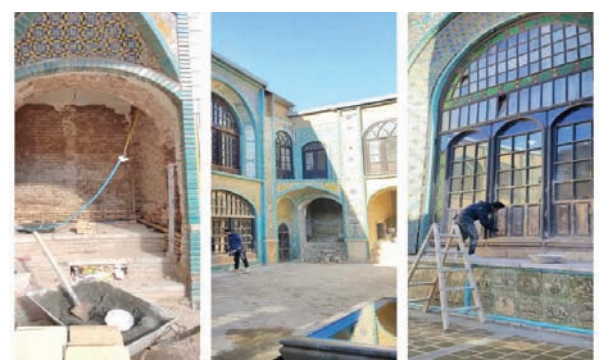
A budget of 12 billion rials (\$30,000) has been allocated to the project, Mohammadreza Soheili explained on Tuesday.

The project involves removing moisture and restoring damaged tiles and arches as well as painting windows and doors, the official added.

The unique tile work of the building requires constant attention and restoration due to its high moisture levels, he noted.

Due to its special architecture and unique tilework, Moaven al-Molk Tekyeh has always been a popular destination for art lovers and history buffs.

The monument was inscribed on the National Heritage list



in 1975.

During Muharram, apart from mosques, each neighborhood sets up its establishment for the ceremonial processions of the month known as Tekyeh (or Tekkiyeh), which are venues for the gathering of mourners known as 'heyat' (literally meaning group or delegation) honor the life of Imam Hussein (AS).

Tekkiyeh (stemming from the word eteka, meaning backup or reliable) was historically a staying place for visiting pilgrims and dervishes who relied on the goodness of the benefactors for daily sustenance. Today, Tekkiyehs, however, are specific locations for mourners who meet and participate in religious gatherings after which they head out on the streets in groups known as dasteh (literally meaning cluster) to parade dramatic mourning.



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Since **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY** intend to purchase 3000 tons of Ferro Silico Manganese with tender no **48548633/1**, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelops according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY**- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Monday 23- JAN-2023 (Monday 1401-11-03).

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ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS

1401-122

Saipa wheel manufacturer company intends to purchase and commissioning Aluminum alloy wheel production line in khoramshahr. Iran. the companies active in this scope are invited to refer to this link: <https://b2n.ir/q03655> to receive document(RFP) and send their proposals to commercial2@kswco.com by January 25th. If you have question please contact Mr.Eftekharian email: commercial1@kswco.com

From page 1 ► Statistics show that 92 percent of opium drug discoveries are made by and in Iran, which shows the heavy weight of the country to keep not only the region but the world safe.

According to international organizations, Afghanistan has been known as the hub of drug production in the world since 1992 and only three years after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union forces from this country.

Afghanistan, which shares a 945-kilometer border with Iran, produces about seven thousand tons of traditional drugs every year, and this amount is minus industrial materials such as glass and other narcotics.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the production of opium in 2021 has increased by eight percent compared to 2020 in Afghanistan, reaching 6,800 tons, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, according to official reports of Iranian authorities, in addition to the production of opium, the production of glass has increased in Afghanistan after the Taliban came to power.

The deputy head of the anti-narcotics headquarters has recently said that due to the political and governance changes in Afghanistan as the main hub of opium production, the increase in the production and trafficking of the crystal drug has become a serious concern.

That is while Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada has issued a decree banning the cultivation of poppy and other types of narcotic plants in Afghanistan.

Need for international support

The Iranian officials have emphasized several times that the budgetary and financial capacity of the country are not enough to fight against drugs and this amount of work, and the continuation of deal-



Taking center stage against narcotics

ing with this issue requires international support.

Eskandar Momeni, the secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters, announced last week that the bill to amend the anti-narcotics law will be submitted to the parliament.

This issue shows the determination of the government to fight the scourge of drug addiction.

Referring to the international aid to deal with the drug transit network, Momeni said that during these years, the Islamic Republic has been alone in the field of fighting narcotics.

“So far, there has been no support, especially in the financial field, from international organizations to deal with drug transit, and the entire burden of this responsibility is on the shoulders of Iran, which considers itself culturally, religiously,

and humanly responsible,” Momeni lamented.

“They not only do not help Iran in this field, but sometimes they throw a spanner in the works.”

During the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs which took place in March 2022 in Vienna, Austria, Momeni called on the United Nations to present a comprehensive and effective action plan to curb opium cultivation and production and to address the destructive problem of narcotics.

Criticizing that despite numerous UN documents and the constant emphasis on the principle of shared responsibility, Iran has had the least amount of international support, despite its global anti-narcotics actions, hosting more than a few million refugees and fighting terrorist threats in the region, he noted that it is time for the

United Nations to present a comprehensive and effective action plan to curb opium cultivation and production to address the devastating problem of narcotics.

He also addressed the issue of unilateral sanctions against Iran, saying that the actions of some countries in imposing harsh sanctions against Iran, politicizing international cooperation, and disrupting Iran's relentless struggle against international drug networks is a clear violation of international law, human rights, and UN resolutions.

At the end, Momeni made suggestions to the Commission to reduce challenges and enhance international efforts to address narcotics trafficking, including, full financial, technical, and equipment support to countries at the forefront of combating international drug and psychotropic substances trafficking.

Turkmenistan ready to broaden academic, technological ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Turkmenistan Ambassador to Iran Ahmad Kakabayevich Gurbanov has said his country is ready to boost relations with Iran, especially in academic and technological areas.

“We are interested in sending students to study in Iran,” he said, adding that due to the importance of scientific issues, various scientific and technological fields can also be included.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with the deputy science minister Hashem Dadashpour, ISNA reported.

Unfortunately, there has been no special cooperation between the two countries in the academic field, he pointed out.

“Due to the fact that we cannot fully provide education for all students in Turkmenistan, students always travel to other countries to study.”

There are many opportunities that we have not used so far. The intergovernmental commission of Turkmenistan and Iran is being formed to intensify bilateral relations, the envoy highlighted.

“We intend to have extensive activities in the field of youth and in this regard, we intend to cooperate with Iran in the field of science and technology,” he concluded.

The Iranian official, for his part, said that “We can create conditions for the students of Turkmenistan, to study in Iranian universities based on their interest in different fields.”

The development of scientific and technological cooperation between Iran and Turk-

menistan will lead to the growth of science in the region, Dadashpour said.

Holding exhibitions on higher education achievements in the field of science and technology is one of the ways for bilateral scientific cooperation, he noted.

Professors and students of Turkmenistan can visit Iran to learn the Persian language and benefit from research and educational opportunities, he concluded.

Iran is among the 15 successful countries in attracting international students, according to Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs.

“We have the ability and capacity to have more than 250,000 foreign students by 2026,” he stated.

Currently, nearly 100,000 foreign nationals are studying in Iran, more than 90 percent of whom are from Iraq and Afghanistan and the rest are from other countries.

These students are studying in different fields of science, research and technology, health and medical education, and also in the fields of humanities, Islamic sciences, Persian language and literature, law, fundamentals of Islamic law, management fields, economics, psychology, social sciences, as well as engineering, agricultural sciences, animal sciences, and basic sciences.

In December 2022, Dadashpour said the number of foreign students will double in Iranian universi-



ties in the next three years.

Universities should increase their interactions and scientific exchanges in order to attract international students and accelerate internationalization in the region and the world, he highlighted.

Iranian universities achieved good ranks at the global level and based on the evaluations of the world's most prestigious institutions so that there is the capacity to attract international students, he said.

He mentioned holding the cultural and sports Olympiad for international students as a way to make them more aware of Iran's capabilities.

According to the latest edition of the best global universities ranking released by U. S. News, 52 Iranian institutions were ranked among the best institutions worldwide.

Fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

“Noora” vaccine successfully passing first phase of clinical trial

“Noora” coronavirus vaccine is successfully passing the first phase of the clinical trial, Hassan Abolqassemi, the chancellor of teh university, has said.

The vaccine is well undergoing the first phase of human testing, he noted, adding, the first phase of human testing lasts 2 months, so far more than a month has passed, IRNA reported on Saturday.

He stressed the need to integrate the human testing phase of the Noora vaccine and said that “this must be done to make the vaccine available for the mass vaccination; while many vaccine producing countries have done the same.”

واکسن نورا مرحله پایانی فاز اول تست انسانی را طی می کند

تهران - رئیس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی بقیه الله گفت: تزریق دز اول واکسن نورا به تمام داوطلبان انجام شد و دز دوم هم به نیمه تزریق رسیده است.

دکتر حسن ابوالقاسمی روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا، روند فعالیت کارآزمایی بالینی واکسن نورا را مطلوب ارزیابی کرد و افزود: این واکسن به نحو مطلوبی در حال طی کردن فاز اول تست انسانی است. وی با یادآوری اینکه طبق برنامه ریزی انجام شده طول دوره مرحله اول تست انسانی ۲ ماه است، ادامه داد: تاکنون بیش از یک ماه از این دوره سپری شده است.

وی بر لزوم ادغام مراحل تست انسانی واکسن نورا تاکید کرد و گفت: این کار باید صورت گیرد و بسیاری از کشورهای تولید کننده واکسن هم از این ظرفیت بهره بردند.

Budget for women increased by 50%

TEHRAN - The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has increased the budget for women's affairs by over 50 percent compared to the current year's budget.

Some 580 billion rials (about \$1.5 million) has been proposed by the budget bill for the next year compared with 320 billion rials (about \$800,000) for the current year, ISNA reported.

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the administration's draft of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, to the Majlis on January 11.

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

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

The National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs has approved six plans to sup-



port families and empower women and improve their status in society.

The formation of a loan guarantee fund for women heads of households was one of the plans of the National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs.

Due to the fact that many female breadwinners could not use business loans due to the lack of a guarantor, the fund was established to help them.

According to official statistics, there are 3.5 million female heads of households, but according to unofficial statistics, the figure reaches more than 6 million.

A plan is entitled ‘Upgrading the structure of the vice president and advisors related to the vice presidency for women and families.’

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 44

Surroundings/catchment: there are a few small settlements and some agriculture (wheat and cotton), and there is a large power station situated on the Caspian shore about 10 km west of the reserve.

Factors adversely affecting ecology

At the site: At Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay poaching occurs throughout the area. Much of the peninsula is open to live-stock grazing, and in the western portion of the reserve this has been excessive.

Irrigation schemes on agricultural land to the west and the south reduce the flow of freshwater into the marshes and the bay, especially in summer. The major threat to the site is the construction of an asphalt highway down to the centre of the peninsula to provide easy access to the fishery stations along the beach at Ashuradeh.

A highway has been constructed already up to the western boundary of the reserve. Recent reports indicate that the work on the road has been resumed.

The greatly increased access to the peninsula because of that road will inevitably lead to increased pressure for settlement, increased farming activities and increased poaching.

Conservation measures taken

The entire area of Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay was designated as a protected region in May 1970.

The entire wildlife refuge, to which 68,800 ha of the area was designated between 1970 and 1975, was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in June 1976.

At the Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans the owners are, under an agreement with the Department of the Environment, permitted to hunt on a maximum of three days per month throughout the hunting season.

However, in recent years they have hunted only three or four times per season. To protect their interest, the owners pay a warden to prevent poaching.

Conservation measures proposed

Various recommendations have been made by Harrington and Scott in 1972, by Matthews in 1973 and by Van Beuningen in 1975.

A Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Mission to the site in January 1992 concluded that the construction of a proposed paved highway along the peninsula would have a detrimental effect on the reserve and should not proceed.

At the Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandans no proposed conservation measures are known.

Current scientific research and facilities

Both at Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay the Ornithology Unit of the Department of the Environment has carried out annual mid-winter censuses since 1968, and many ornithological surveys have been undertaken on other occasions.

A considerable amount of limnological and fisheries research has been conducted by the National Fisheries Organisation (Shilot), and there is a large fisheries station at Ashuradeh, at the eastern end of the peninsula.

Visiting researchers can be accommodated at two game guard stations on the peninsula.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



Feeding migratory birds at Hour-al-Azim Wetland

TEHRAN – A man is feeding migratory birds at Hour-al-Azim Wetland in the southwestern Khuzestan province, January 16, 2023. With an area of 125,000 hectares, Hour-al-Azim is the largest and most well-known international wetland in Iran.

Each year, a large number of migratory birds flock to the wetland, mainly for wintering.

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JANUARY 18, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do you know what is better than charity and fasting and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people, as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:15 Evening: 17:36 Dawn: 5:44 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:12 (tomorrow)

Jami: Life and works

Part 5

Jami also wrote a guide to the pilgrimage during his journey to Mecca in 1473, entitled *Resale-ye manasek-e hajj*. A longer work on the same topic, reported by Lari, is lost.

Finally, mention should be made of two very brief theological works *Sharh-e hadis-e Abi Zarrin al-Aqili* and *Resale-ye so'al o jawab-e Hendustan*, as well as two uncompleted works: a tafsir on the Quran and a commentary on *Meftah al-gheyb* by *Sadr ad-Din Qonyavi*, an early student of *Ebn al-Arabi*.

In addition to his mystical and theological writings, Jami's oeuvre contains a variety of treatises on literary topics. He composed no less than four treatises on *mo'amma* ('riddles' or 'logogriphs'), which were the height of literary fashion in the 15th century.

The first and longest of these, *Helya-ye holar* (The Ornament of Ornaments) is Jami's earliest datable prose work. Also known as *Resale-ye kabir dar mo'amma*, it sets out to clarify some of the obscure points in an earlier treatise on the topic by *Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazdi* and was dedicated to the *Timurid* ruler *Abul-Qasem Babor* in 1452.

The *Resala-ye motawasset dar mo'amma* explicates the logogriphs contained in a twelve-verse *ghazal*, which yield the name and titles of *Sultan Hoseyn Bayqara*.

A summary of the *Helya-ye holar*, known as the *Resale-ye saghir dar mo'amma*, was composed in 1480. Finally, *Resale-ye asghar-e manzum dar mo'amma* summarizes the basic rules for deriving the solutions of riddles in 68 rhymed couplets.

Apart from this specialized topic, Jami wrote treatises on the two most basic elements of classical Persian poetic form—the concise *Resale-ye qafiya* on rhyme and the more comprehensive *Resale-ye aruz* on prosody.

Jami's interests extended to other areas of scholarship as well. His *Resale-ye musiqi* treats both the modal and rhythmic systems of traditional Persian music.

As an aid to the education of his son *Zia ad-Din*, Jami composed a textbook on Arabic grammar entitled *Fawa'ed Ziya'ieh fi sharh al-Kafiyeh* in the last year of his life.

As the title indicates, this is a commentary on *Ebn Hajeb's al-Kafiya fi'l-nahw*, and it continued to be used as a textbook through the 19th century; it soon accumulated its own set of commentaries and was perhaps the most frequently published of all of Jami's works with lithograph editions appearing in *Istanbul*, *India*, and *Persia*.

Although less popular as a textbook, *Sarf-e Farsi-ye manzum va mansur* seems to have been written as a companion piece to the *Fawa'ed* and deals with Arabic morphology in Persian prose and verse.

Finally, Jami also prepared a collection of his letters and extensive correspondence (*Monsha'at*), which helps map his vast network of colleagues, friends, and patrons.

Jami's poetics and his literary reputation

Perhaps the most striking feature to emerge from even a cursory survey of Jami's vast oeuvre is its constant reference to the literary past.

This is obviously true of his commentaries, but nearly all of his poetic writings too are modeled in one way or another on earlier works.

The *Baharestan* looks back to *Sa'di's Golestan*, his *masnanis* revisit stories, themes, and structures first developed by *Sana'i*, *Nezami*, and *Amir Khosrow*, and even his autobiographical *qasida Rashh-e bal besharh-e hal* takes its cue from a similar poem written by *Kasai* some five centuries before.

Jami's comprehensive knowledge of the earlier poetry and the traditional canons of criticism is also evident throughout the seventh chapter of *Baharestan*, devoted to the lives of poets.

Classical Persian poetry is, of course, defined by its conventions, and there are few works in the tradition that do not draw on earlier precedents to some extent.

What distinguishes Jami's poetics, however, is the effort to codify and consolidate the entire literary tradition up to his time, a largely conservative project that might be best characterized as neo-classical.

In his *ghazals*, for example, Jami responded repeatedly to poems by *Sadi*, *Amir Khosrow*, *Kamal al Khojand*, and *Hafez* in the same rhyme and meter.

However, it is not the writing of response poems itself, but the way of writing them that distinguishes Jami's poetics. In general, his responses stick close to the theme of their model, regularize its structure, and elaborate on its images and topoi.

Jami's vast neo-classical project was met with nearly universal acclaim during his lifetime. His works spread quickly throughout Persian speaking regions and were warmly received in *Ottoman Turkey*, where they were translated into *Turkish* and widely imitated.

His life was celebrated in a series of biographies by his close friend *Alishir Navai* and his students *Abd al-Ghafur Lari*, *Abd al-Wase' Nezami Bakharzi*, and *Fakhr ad-Din Ali Safi Kashefi*.

His profound impact on the literary scene of the *Uzbek courts* in *Transoxiana* is evidenced by the constant references to him throughout *Wsaefi's Badaye al-waqaye*.

The large numbers of high quality manuscripts of his works preserved in the libraries of *Central Asia*, *Turkey*, and *India* testify to his continuing popularity in these areas over the next several centuries.

In *Persia* proper, however, profound changes in politics, religion, and literary taste cast a shadow over Jami's reputation. The rise of the *Safavids* and the propagation of state-sponsored *Shiism* in effect again subjected Jami to a trial of his religious affiliations, similar to the one that had taken place in *Baghdad*.

Poets of the 'realist school' (*maktab-e woqu*) in the 16th century consciously turned away from the *Sufistic* symbolism of Jami's lyric poetry, while their successors in the 'fresh style' (*shive-ye tazeh*) looked past Jami to the classical tradition itself to find sanction for their innovations in poetic diction and imagery.

It is indicative of the indifference of the seventeenth century poets to Jami that among the hundreds of references to several dozen poets found in *Saeb's divan*, Jami is mentioned only once.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Tehran halls to raise curtains on 41st Fajr Intl. Theater Festival on Jan. 21

TEHRAN – Curtains will go up on Saturday at Tehran theaters to host drama lovers for the 41st edition of the Fajr International Theater Festival.

About 40 plays have been selected to be performed in the national competition and 23 troupes will give performances in the international competition, the festival president, Kurosh Zarei, said in a press conference on Tuesday.

The foreign troupes are from Brazil, Russia, Oman, Spain, Iraq, Armenia, Tunisia and Jordan, and several theater experts from Ireland, Serbia, Algeria and Russia will hold workshops during the festival, which will run until January 31.

Seven managers of international festivals and a group of 25 stage artists from across the world have been invited to attend the festival.

This year's festival plans to launch a union of the Islamic world theater in the international section. Twenty papers from ten Muslim countries will be presented on January 27 and 28.

The festival had planned to organize the launch of the union in *Khuzestan Province* with several performances from Arabian groups, however, the plan was canceled due to a lack of adequate funds.

“Theater is an art that can

President of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, Kurosh Zarei (2nd L) and his colleagues attend a press conference at Rudaki Hall in Tehran on January 17, 2023, to brief the media about the event. (Theater.ir)

generate sympathy among Muslim nations, because it is formed based on dialogue,” said Zarei and noted that the world needs to engage in dialogue to avoid wars.

In calls published on social media, groups of Iranian artists have asked their colleagues to boycott all Fajr festivals, which are organized every year to

celebrate the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, in support of the unrest that has struck the country over the past four months.

“Although many artists have been threatened, yet they have persisted eagerly in their decision to participate in the festival,” Zarei said.

He expressed his thanks to

the participants and viewed the calls to shut down theater as “oppression of people”.

“Theater is an activity that never is closed; by shutting down theater, we would be depriving ourselves and the people of it,” he added.

The theater festival will be followed by the 41st Fajr International Film festival.

Art exhibit pays tribute to painter Habibollah Sadeqi

Sculptor Nader Qashqai unveils his bust of painter Habibollah Sadeqi in an exhibition that opened at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran on January 16, 2023, to pay tribute to the artist. (IRNA/Payam Sani)

From Page 1 ► A bust of Sadeqi created by Nader Qashqai and one of his paintings on *Hazrat Fatima (SA)*, daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (S), were unveiled at the showcase.

Gothic horror novella “St. Irvyne” published in Persian

TEHRAN – “St. Irvyne: or, The Rosicrucian - A Romance”, a Gothic horror novella by Percy Bysshe Shelley, has been published in Persian.

Qoqnus is the publisher of the novella first published in 1811. It has been translated into Persian by Mehrdad Vosuqi.

The main character is Wolfstein, a solitary wanderer, who encounters Ginotti, an alchemist of the Rosicrucian or Rose Cross Order who seeks to impart the secret of immortality.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was one of the major English Romantic

A combination photo shows Percy Shelley and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novella “St. Irvyne.”

poets, and is regarded by some as among the finest lyric poets in the English language, and one of

Memories of Martyr Mehdi Tahmasebi in “The Secret of the Burnt Tag”

An interview with Ali Ebrahimi

The book “The Secret of the Burnt Tag”, written by Ali Ebrahimi, refers to the lives of two martyrs who defended the shrine, and in the course of it, it talks about the spiritual evolution and concerns of the martyrs.

In the beginning, the author explained that the book is written in a storytelling style and based on the documents and manuscripts of *Shahid Tahmasebi*. This book has a very interesting story and tells the facts and events from the battle scenes with *ISIS*.

According to Ebrahimi, a key feature of the book is that the narrator himself is *Tahmasebi*, making all narrations clear to the audience without any deficiency. A story is

told about the journey he had to Syria and all the events recorded in a notebook written by this martyr.

Furthermore, Ali Ebrahimi described martyr *Tahmasebi's* personality and said that he was a great poet that had written mostly epic poems. Acting and directing degrees were also among his qualifications.

The martyr Mehdi Tahmasebi even had a football refereeing degree from the country's football federation, and Ebrahimi pointed out and expressed his other capabilities as a young man. In addition, he was also a memorizer of the Holy Quran.

The author examined the book's documentation quality and concluded that

since Mahdi Tahmasebi had documented all his daily missions and could provide interesting content, he had written the book as a story, and interestingly, he also felt the martyr himself was helping him to prepare it.