

EU Security More Fragile Than Before

► Page 2

Op-ed **T** “The Die is Cast” for the U.S. ...

By Martin Love

This past week for an evening in North Carolina I had the pleasure of speaking briefly with Medea Benjamin and hearing her opine about Ukraine to an audience at a local church. A petite, elegant, straight talking Jewish lady, now 70, who for decades has been at the forefront of trying to explain to far more “average” and largely perplexed American multitudes and the world at large just what the U.S. government has been doing — criminally — across the globe but especially in the Middle East with its war machine over and over again, especially in the last 30 or so years but beginning primarily elsewhere Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s.

In this century alone the U.S. has already spent and wasted over \$8 trillion dollars on making wars, killed millions of innocent people, virtually bankrupted the Treasury and turned the U.S. financial system into the largest Ponzi scheme ever. This is evident where, like soon, the government must raise the debt ceiling, a much repeated action, ► Page 5

Iran implements BINA radar system

TEHRAN - Iran has sought to implement the state-of-the-art radar system called “BINA”.

In a ceremony on Wednesday, Air Force commander Alireza Sabahifard attended the Bam radar site to evaluate the operational performance of the radar system.

Sabahifard stressed that the radar system is completely indigenous. He also said it is apt for the geographical and environmental conditions of the country.

“This system has been utilized by the air force in a bid to expand the radar coverage in the southeast of the country and will also step up the combat power of the air defense force.”

The air force commander described the air defense force as one of the most important and fundamental elements of national security. ► Page 2

Taftian not to compete at 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Hasan Taftian, the fasters Iranian athlete, will not participate at the 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Athletic Federation (IRIAF).

The federation also announced that about 10 athletes will participate at the 10th Asian Indoor Athletics Championship, taking place in Astana, Kazakhstan from Feb. 10-12.

The selection of these athletes was based on their performance on the club competitions, in fact the Athletics Federation needs some eligibility requirements for participating in the Asian competitions, which only three athletes managed to meet the requirements in the country's club championships, namely Farzaneh Fasihi and Hamideh Ismailnejad in the 60-meter, and Hamidreza Kia in the triple jump. ► Page 3

Leader underlines maximum use of people capacity in cultural products

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, underscored the need for taking advantage of people's capacities in producing cultural and propagation works.

In a meeting with officials from the Islamic Propagation Organization on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei underlined the need for using people's capacities in a maximum way. He cited Ammar Festival as a case in point.

He stressed the importance of using “new

ideas” and being aware of the “socio-cultural requirements” while working in the field of culture.

The Leader stated that the two important duties of cultural and propagation organizations are the production and presentation ► Page 3

Iran’s annual oil output grew 7% in 2022: OPEC

TEHRAN – Iran's oil production in 2022 increased seven percent compared to the previous year, according to OPEC's first monthly report released in 2023.

According to the OPEC report, the Islamic Republic produced 2.554 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in 2022, 162,000 bpd

more than the figure for 2021, when the output stood at 2.392 million bpd.

Citing secondary sources, the report put Iranian crude output for December 2022 at 2.574 million bpd indicating a 9,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for November.

The country's heavy crude oil price also

increased by \$30.12 in 2022 to register a 43-percent rise compared to the previous year, according to the OPEC report.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$99.92 per barrel on average in the mentioned year, compared to 2021 when the average price was \$69.8 per barrel. ► Page 4

Tehran, Dushanbe call for enhanced scientific co-op

TEHRAN – The Iranian deputy science minister and the president of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences held a meeting here on Tuesday, discussing ways to boost relations in the field of science and research.

Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, also attended the meeting, IRNA reported.

The two sides emphasized the need to develop scientific and technological cooperation by forming a joint committee in the near future.

Vahid Haddadi-Asl, the Iranian official, referred to common religion and language and geographical proximity as factors that can be effective in deepening the cooperation between the two countries, saying that the past relations between the two countries have been in line with cooperation and friendship. ► Page 7



© ISNA/ Ali Bohmani

Paradis of Khorasan

80 kilometers northwest of Mashhad a waterfall called Akhlamad has frozen as temperatures have sharply fallen in northeast Iran. The waterfall is situated on the slopes of Binaloud mountains. The region is known as “the paradise of Khorasan”. It receives local and foreign tourists during the year. Now that the waterfall has frozen the picturesque region has attracted more sightseers.

UK looks clumsy and powerless vis-à-vis Iran: British columnist

TEHRAN – A British commentator has lambasted the way London dealt with Iran in the wake of the execution of Alireza Akbari.

In a commentary for the Guardian, Simon Tisdall criticized UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Foreign Secretary James Cleverly for using a “culturally insulting language” in condemning the execution of Akbari.

“Culturally insulting language used by Rishi Sunak and James Cleverly will increase tension be-

tween the two countries,” Tisdall wrote.

He touched on the emotional baggage Iranians carry in how they historically view Britain. “Britain's relationship with Iran has a fraught, unedifying history, dating back to the 18th-century imperial tussle between England, Napoleonic France, and tsarist Russia for control of Persia. Iranians have long memories. To this day, they blame the UK for many of their woes,” the commentator wrote.

He then scolded Sunak and Cleverly for using

improper words in denouncing the execution. “Sunak and Cleverly's ill-judged, culturally insulting condemnation of the regime as ‘barbaric’ will further raise tensions,” he wrote, adding, “Rather than making Britain sound strong and resolute, Cleverly's choice of language smacks of powerlessness. Former Tory foreign secretaries Douglas Hurd and Lord Carrington would not have been so clumsy. But standards have fallen a lot since their time.”

From Inside **T**

- Saudi FM says Riyadh seeking a way to talk to Tehran, defuse tensions **P2**
- Implementing Iran-China partnership deal foils project of isolating Tehran: MPP **P3**
- West drives a wedge between Iran, EU through meddling: MP **P3**
- Tehran, Moscow stress accelerating INSTC development **P4**
- Cooperation between Iran, Syria free zones to be boosted **P4**
- Traces of millennia-old town discovered in northwest Iran **P6**
- Building schools with Iranian-Islamic identity on agenda **P7**
- “The Runner” picked for Houston museum's Festival of Films from Iran **P8**

Tehran Papers **T**

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

You will meet IRGC in Persian Gulf!

Referring to the European Union's attempt to place the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on the list of terrorist groups, the Javan newspaper writes: Following the successive failures of some Western countries in creating unrest in Iran, ► Page 2

No undeclared nuclear sites in Iran: Eslami

TEHRAN – Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said Wednesday that there are no undeclared nuclear sites in Iran.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday, Eslami said Iran is focused on clarification and answering questions regarding its nuclear activity.

“The issue that has been on our agenda has been to resolve the ambiguities and respond to them. The accusations that the anti-revolutionary elements have made over the years have been investigated by the Agency and all its steps have been taken,” Eslami said, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA. ► Page 3

Helicopter crash near Kyiv kills 16, including Ukrainian interior minister

A helicopter crash near a kindergarten in the Kyiv region has killed at least 16 people, including the leadership team of Ukraine's interior ministry who were traveling on the aircraft and three children on the ground, according to officials.

At least 30 others, including 12 children, are in the hospital following the incident in the city of Brovary on Wednesday, according to Kyrylo Tymoshenko, head of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration.

Tymoshenko has revised down the number of people killed in the crash on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital – the previous death toll was 18. ► Page 5

Iranian photographers top at Victor Polynsky Awards

TEHRAN – Iranian photographers have won top honors at the 4th Victor Polynsky Awards in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The competition was held in the categories of Open Monochrome, Open Color, Portrait Color, Creative Color, Landscape and Photojournalism.

It was organized by the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Focus Photo Club (FPC), Iran's branch of the FIAP. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

You will meet IRGC in Persian Gulf!

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

from page 1 ► which was designed and supported by the United States, the Zionist regime and the financing of some Arab governments in the region and terrorist groups, the European governments and British at the top have launched a ridiculous campaign against the Islamic Republic by trying to put the IRGC on their own terrorist list.

If Europe commits such historical mistake again and declares the IRGC a terrorist, it has actually “declared war on Iran”.

The IRGC is not unfamiliar with war and knows how to fight better than the Europeans and Americans, who do not have the power to fight Russia and are helpless in the face of the Shahed drone. But if Europe makes another mistake like supporting chaos in Iran, it should meet the IRGC in the Persian Gulf! Of course, the Persian Gulf is only one place in the world where Europeans may have to get the permission from the IRGC for their presence and pass!

When the entire world had sanctioned the IRGC during Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s, it managed a full-scale global war for eight years and won. Get to know the army for which you used to sanction its imports and you didn't sell it the weapons it needed now you are trying to sanction its military products! If it wasn't for the IRGC, Paris, and Berlin would now be in the hands of Muslim Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi!

The people of Iran found out the true nature of Europe in preventing export of medicine and food to the country. Sanctioning the IRGC, however, is more unacceptable to the Iranians than sanctioning medicine and food, because the IRGC is the pride and honor of the Iranian people.

If Europe had been aware of the danger of terrorism, it would not have changed its manifesto with Saudi bribes! And it would not have allowed Yemen to fall prey to a terrorist regime for eight years. However, the Yemenis fought amazingly and now the Saudis are begging for an end to the war.

The security of Europe is indebted to the IRGC. If you don't know what you are doing, you should meet the IRGC in the strategic straits, including the Persian Gulf!

Shargh: If America acts rationally, we will solve nuclear case

Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi, a member of the Parliament's National Security Council Committee, said in an interview with Shargh that “there has been no news about the new round of negotiations regarding the JCPOA for several months, and the Westerners have created” a confused atmosphere “with their contradictory positions... and continuation of negotiations.”

“Once they talk about the death of the JCPOA (by saying ‘the deal is dead’), the next day they send a message to Iran through other countries asking continuation of negotiations,” Jahanabadi told the daily.

Jahanabadi says: Of course, these are reciprocal messages, but what the result will be is not yet clear and we have to wait and see the result.

He emphasized that after the recent events (unrest) in Iran, America thinks that the Islamic Republic has been weakened and now Washington is waiting to enter into negotiations from a position of power to impose its conditions. While this is just their imagination and protests like this may occur in any country.

MP also spoke about the paradoxical positions of the West regarding the JCPOA, saying, “Americans

Judiciary frees 98.5% of rioters in Tehran province

TEHRAN - Judiciary spokesman Masoud Setayeshi announced on Wednesday that 98.5 percent of those who had been detained in the recent uprisings in Tehran province are now free.

Speaking in his presser, Setayeshi said all persons who perpetrated petty offenses in Tehran province have been released and few of them wait for finalization of their files.

“Execution of UK-linked spy triggered London's hysterical responses”

The Judiciary spokesman also stated that Britain's

Iran implements BINA radar system

from page 1 ► “Today, the air defense is monitoring the possible movements of the enemy with full alertness,” he added.

According to sources, BINA is a 3D high-resolution control radar that is very effective at

‘speak softly and carry a big stick,’ and we don't know how to deal with these paradoxical positions of the Americans regarding the JCPOA.”

According to him, if America moves its strategy towards logic and justice, Iran is ready to solve the nuclear issue. “We also do not want the economic war to continue.”

The JCPOA negotiations are currently facing two serious and big problems: Firstly, the U.S. does not behave rationally and is not willing to make any commitments; and secondly, the U.S. was monitoring the unrest in Iran, and imagined that the Islamic Republic has been weakened. Thereby, Washington was waiting for Iran to come to the negotiating table in a position of weakness.

Kayhan: When the devil raises voice

In an article entitled “When the voice of the devil is raised”, Kayhan refers to the sensitivity of countries, especially Western countries, to foreign applications and that they put restrictions on them. However, the publication criticizes some in Iran who complain about such restrictions.

In the article, Kayhan refers to the advice of former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo regarding the Tik Tok application who on January 12 tweeted: “If you care about your kids and grandkids, get Tik-Tok off their phones. Just delete it. Trust me—they'll thank you later.”

It is further stated it may be “strange” for many to know that the advice is given by Pompeo.

For years, experts and media in Iran have repeatedly called for proper control of non-Iranian apps and social networks, but they have been accused of being fans of internet filtering and restrictions.

However, in different countries, monitoring laws are established for the operation of a foreign app. In the US concerns about the activity and popularity of Tik Tok first led to restrictions on its use in government offices in some states, and finally with the approval of the House of Representatives and Senate, the restrictions in government organizations were exerted.

Vatan-e Emrooz: Korean mistake

On Sunday, the South Korean president while visiting Abu Dhabi told the Korean soldiers in the Arab country that Iran is the UAE's “rival and largest danger.”

The words of the South Korean president come at a time that Iran has established good ties with the UAE since last year and Abu Dhabi sent its ambassador to Tehran after 6 years.

The president makes these contradictory and undiplomatic statements while he himself is the main source of crisis in the ties between Iran and South Korea as the country has frozen \$9 billion of Iranian assets.

Iran is one of the few countries that have good ties with both North Korea and South Korea, and this can put Iran in a special position in Oceania and the Pacific Ocean, which will be the heartland of new order in the world.

At the end of the article, with an implicit reference to the endorsement of a (PJGCC statement by the Chinese President during his visit to Saudi Arabia last month, the newspaper said. “It seems that some East Asian countries are putting their steps on a dangerous track in Arab countries. They intend to turn the very small differences between Iran and some Persian Gulf Arab countries into a big issue and by further fueling the differences, secure their economic interests.”

hasty and hysterical responses to the execution of its notorious spy was just another illustration of the terrible deeds taken by the UK government against the Iranian people over the last two centuries.

Judiciary announced on Saturday that it had executed Alireza Akbari, an Iranian-British citizen, who had been spying for England's MI6.

The Judiciary handled Akbari's case, including the initial investigation, interrogation, and all processes, in a very thorough and comprehensive manner, demonstrating the legal body's tact in dealing with the UK government's malice, he stated.

identifying and locating possible targets with low radar cross sections.

It is also capable of fully combating electronic warfare and locating stealth targets.

EU security more fragile than before

TEHRAN- In another wrong approach towards the Islamic Republic of Iran,

the European Parliament on Wednesday called on the European Union and its member states to place Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on the bloc's terror list.

The European Parliament voted for the bill with 598 in favor, 9 against, and 31 abstentions.

There may also be a vote by the European Parliament on a “plan to suspend the JCPOA” talks with Iran on Thursday. Also, next Monday the European governments may decide whether to put the newly-approved European Parliament resolution into action or not.

If implemented or not, it is an illegal move by the European states because the IRGC is a legal military unit of Iran, having a leading role in countering terrorism in the region and the larger world.

Speaking hours before European Parliament's approval, Mohammad Esmael Kowsari, a former IRGC commander and current legislator, warned that if the European Parliament designates the IRGC as a terrorist organization it would have detrimental repercussions for the bloc and would not go unpunished.

Kowsari warned the European nations not to fall for a scheme orchestrated by the U.S. and the Zionist regime to ban the IRGC.

He pointed out that the IRGC won't be in any way constrained by such an evil scheme.

Additionally, he urged the EU and European governments to remain independent of the U.S. and refrain from



adopting any “hostile” action against the IRGC since doing so may eliminate any hope of dialogue on the JCPOA with Iran.

“The fallout from the European Union's policy against the IRGC could be too much for the European countries and might deal a blow on any hope of negotiations,” he added.

Recent months have seen a rise in tensions between Iran and Western countries, particularly EU member states, over Iran's purported sale of weapons to Russia and its alleged brutal suppression of domestic riots.

Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi also spoke before the approval by the European parliament, saying any decision by Western countries to label an official military unit of Iran as a terrorist group will violate international conventions and reveal their mental, moral, and political weakness.

It will also be evidence of the insti-

gator's political and moral bankruptcy, the minister remarked.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Vahidi praised the IRGC as the most significant force in the battle against terrorism and asserted that such a magnificent organization is under danger from those who promote terrorism, such as the Zionist regime and the United States.

“There is no need to be alarmed about the European Parliament's proposal to label the IRGC as a terrorist group. The IRGC will advance vigorously,” Vahidi underscored.

The United Kingdom in cahoots with the European Union make attempts to classify the IRGC as a “terrorist organization” after Iran hanged dual citizen Alireza Akbari for spying for Britain.

In another slap by an Iranian lawmaker, the European Union was forewarned over its wrong approach towards Iran.

Saudi FM says Riyadh seeking a way to talk to Tehran, defuse tensions

TEHRAN- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said on Tuesday his country is seeking to find a road to dialogue with Iran as the best approach to settle disputes in the midst of a diplomatic process between the two countries aimed at repairing strained ties.

Delivering speech at a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the senior Saudi diplomat stressed that the decision by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states in giving priority to economy and development was a “strong signal to Iran and others in the region that there is a pathway beyond traditional arguments and disputes towards joint prosperity.”

“I think the more we can build a sense of cooperation in the region, the more we can work together, the more we can deliver not just prosperity for our people, but also for our immediate region and beyond,” he noted.

During a trip to Lebanon on Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian voiced optimism that talks between Tehran and Riyadh may lead to the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Iran FM upbeat over opening of talks between Ankara and Damascus

Amir Abdollahian meets Turkish president in Ankara

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held talks on Tuesday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara.

Amir Abdollahian, who was in Turkey to take part in the 8th Iran-Turkiye Commission meeting, discussed the impending visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to Turkey.

Amir Abdollahian also expressed optimism that the opening of talks between Ankara and Damascus will advance the peace process between the two nations.

Erdogan stated that Tehran-Ankara ties are significant, noting that

Iran's participation in the Astana Process for talks on Syria is crucial.

He also expressed confidence that Iran can help implement novel strategies in these talks.

The Turkish leader emphasized that “there is no limit to the expansion of comprehensive cooperation between the two neighboring countries.”

The two parties at the commission meeting also stressed the significance of the trilateral talks between Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan.

Iran says it's 'extremely satisfied' with improvement in Turkish ties with Syria

The efforts toward Turkish-Syrian

reconciliation have the full support of the Islamic Republic, according to Amir Abdollahian, who further emphasized that any improvement in their ties would be in the best interests of the whole region.

“We feel any constructive growth in ties between Ankara and Damascus would help our region and our nations. We are quite delighted that ties between Damascus and Ankara are experiencing improvement,” Amir Abdollahian said in a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart.

Given its close ties to both Turkey and Syria, the Islamic Republic will never spare any opportunity to fulfill such an objective, the senior Iranian

In response to Europe's attempt to sanction the IRGC, Tehran's representative in the parliament, Mahmoud Nabavian, said that “if the interests of the Iranian nation are really endangered, we will put the European Union on the terrorist list and know well how to face the terrorists.”

It is worth noting that the European bloc have made 11 pledges to Iran following the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of action, but as ex-Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said none of them were fulfilled.

The recent military operation on Ukraine has cast light on the fact that European countries are unable to maintain their own security and safety but instead they sniff the way Washington has paved.

Given the ban on the IRGC, they are doing the same job as before. Consequently, European officials are trying to fill the U.S. shoes.

The failure of the West in the foreign-backed riots in Iran is an underlying reason why they are vexed against the IRGC.

In other words, the European bloc views the IRGC as a barrier to their anti-Iran plans and ploys. That's why they are scrambling to take weird actions in this respect.

Sanctions on the IRGC can never hinder the way of growth of such a deep-rooted organization but will surely have dire consequences for the European countries.

To put it more clearly, the European bloc is seriously jeopardizing the future of the JCPOA revival talks and thereby complicating status quo in West Asia.

situation. Our Iraqi friends made good efforts to host prior meetings between the two nations, and thankfully they still make an attempt. Both parties have confidence in the Iraqi side, and they applaud its efforts to establish favorable conditions for a fresh round of negotiations.”

After Iranian protestors stormed the Saudi embassy in Tehran in response to the Saudi beheading of famous Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, the kingdom broke diplomatic ties with Iran in January 2016.

Later, the kingdom maintained a combative foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, particularly under the previous U.S. administration of Donald Trump, with whom the Saudi rulers had close connections.

Saudi Arabia appears to have suddenly reversed its hostile stance, expressing a desire to heal wounds with Tehran and reestablish bilateral contacts through diplomatic channels and third parties.

Over a number of regional problems, chiefly the disastrous and protracted Saudi war on Yemen, the two neighbors remain sharply split.

diplomat added.

For his part, Cavusoglu emphasized that Turkey and Iran both agreed that Syria's territorial integrity should be protected.

Additionally, he added that he plans to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad for the first time “in the near future.”

The Turkish official had previously mentioned that he may meet his Syrian counterpart next month to discuss plans for a historic summit between the Turkish and Syrian presidents.

“Today, we stressed the importance of Iran's involvement to this process,” he remarked.

his life to achieving equality for the country's African-American people.

“The killing demonstrated that despite the passage of five decades following the assassination of Martin Luther King, his vision of the equal entitlement to civil rights for Black Americans has not yet been achieved,” the spokesperson stated.

He said, “The people of color are still the target of serious violations of fundamental human rights and racial treatment.”

after the incident on the afternoon of January 3 in Los Angeles' Venice area.

He was the cousin of Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement.

His death created a significant outrage across the United States.

Calling the demise of Anderson as “tragic,” Kanaani recalled that the murder took place on the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., a famous American civil rights activist who devoted

Leader underlines maximum use of people capacity in cultural, propagation products

From Page 1 ► of rich content based on new ideas and thoughts, as well as taking into account the social and cultural requirements of cultural activities while being Godwary at the same time, according to a readout of the meeting published by khamenei.ir.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution praised the Islamic Propagation Organization for their endeavors. Referring to verses from the Quran, Ayatollah Khamenei considered the fear of God in the meaning of “consideration, observance and mindfulness” as a necessary and permanent strategy for those active in the fields of culture and propagation. “Cultural-propagation organizations must make sure that the word and decree of God are not overlooked under any circumstances. One should not be afraid of controversies and accusations in this field”, he added.

West drives a wedge between Iran, EU through meddling: MP

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmaker Fada Hossein Maleki has reacted to the escalation of tensions between Iran and the European Union, saying the West is to blame for the escalation.

He said Western meddling in Iran and their non-compliance with the terms of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has exacerbated the atmosphere of distrust between Tehran and Brussels.

“The non-commitment of the Europeans in the JCPOA and their increased interference in Iran’s internal issues has created a wall of distrust between us and the European Union,” Maleki told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

Maleki, who is a member of the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said the Islamic Republic has based its foreign policy on its national interests.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has defined its foreign policy framework based on the country’s national interests and has relations with different countries based on this,” he noted.

The lawmaker added, “We have a special strategy and political relations with the neighboring countries and the region, and we have defined relations with the Westerners and Latin American countries based on national interests. But a wall of mistrust has been created between us and the European Union for a long time.”

He continued, “Mistrust between Iran and the European Union increased especially after the issue of the JCPOA and the withdrawal of the US from the nuclear agreement and the Europeans’ disregard for JCPOA obligations. Westerners did not have a single and coherent policy in the JCPOA negotiation process and their position. Therefore, Iran lost its trust in Westerners.”

Maleki stated, “In the last three months, despite the fact that the political equations of Europe were affected by the war in Ukraine



The Leader stated that paying attention to social requirements in propagation does not equal with ignoring God’s awareness and His eminence.

He listed giving attention to the taste of the audience in cultural and propagation related activities

as one of these requirements. “The language you use to communicate with a young person is different from the language you use to talk to an ignorant, or antagonistic person. In the same way, the language of speaking and preaching in other countries should be different in nature to the

kind of cultural-propagation work that is being implemented inside the country, in Revolutionary institutes and organizations included.”

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution underlined that the market of new ideas and new products is thriving both inside and outside of the country. In this regard, he stated, “Be active in this busy market by generating new ideas, processing them, and turning them into exquisite products.”

Ayatollah Khamenei also expressed his disapproval at the lack of work in this field. “The Islamic Propagation Organization and artistic department (Hawzah Honari) have done great work in different fields, but not as much as they should have during their 40-year lifespan. Therefore, they need to multiply their efforts and the work that they do.”



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.”

The UK has summoned the Iranian ambassador and recalled its ambassador to Tehran for more consultations in the wake of the execution of Alireza Akbari. It also imposed sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities.

Commenting on the UK response, Iranian lawmaker Jalil Rahimi 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.”

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.

‘Implementing Iran-China partnership deal foils project of isolating Tehran’

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has underlined the need for implementing a 25-year partnership plan with China as a way to counter the project of isolating Iran.

The lawmaker, Alireza Salimi, who is a member of the Iranian Parliament’s presiding board, said some countries are trying to isolate Iran but implementing the 25-year partnership plan between Iran and China will foil that project.

“Some countries are trying to isolate the Islamic Republic and not allow countries to develop their relations with Iran, so the implementation of the 25-year cooperation document between Iran and China will help neutralize the aforementioned anti-Iranian policy,” Salimi told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He added, “Today, due to the imposition of sanctions by the Westerners, especially the Americans, we see restrictions on economic relations, but the implementation of this joint cooperation document can neutralize the restrictions.”

Salimi continued, “In fact, the Chinese are achieving the superior economic power in the world, and this is against the policies of the United States, so their long-term cooperation with Iran can be effective.”

Underlining that the 25-year cooperation document between the two countries is also politically important, Salimi said the implementation of this document will foils the West’s project to isolate Iran.

He stated, “Undoubtedly, speeding up the implementation

of the 25-year cooperation document between Iran and China is of particular importance, and obstacles must be removed in this direction.”

Ala’eddin Boroujerdi, chief of the Iran-China Friendship Association, has recently underlined that the future trip by President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran to China will help speed up the implementation of the 25-year Iran-China cooperation plan.

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

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

The 25-year plan for

comprehensive partnership between Iran and China was finalized in March 2021.

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

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

China is the second largest economy in the world.

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

document, while these are not two issues but one issue,” he said.

He said, “We clearly state that according to the Agency itself, there is no undeclared nuclear activity or site in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our interactions are established and Mr. Grossi announced his readiness to be in Iran. And the program, content and goals of the trip should be arranged.”



SPORTS

Taftian not to compete at 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships

From Page 1 ► Javad Khosroshiri, a member of the technical committee of the IRIAF, said that the federation was supposed to hold a record-setting competition after the end of the Iran athletics league but it was canceled.

“So, we made the final selection based on the performance of the athletes in the country’s club competitions,” he said to the reporters.

In the last edition of the event, Iran finished second with 24 medals, including five gold, nine silver, and 10 bronze medals.

When asked about the condition of Hassan Taftian and whether he would participate in the 2023 Asian Indoor Championships, Khosrowshiri said: “We contacted Taftian (who is training in Jamaica right now) and asked him about his schedule. His personal coach’s opinion was that he should complete his preparation program and not participate at the 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

“His major goal is to earn medal in the 2022 Asian Games. Of course, the Asian Games are more important for the federation as well,” he added.

On 8 July 2017, Taftian became the first Iranian ever to win the gold medal in 100 meters in an Asian Athletics Championships after finishing with a time of 10.25 seconds at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, India.

Slovenia victorious over Iran at 2022 World Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Slovenia 38-21 in Group I of the 2023 International Handball Federation (IHF) World Handball Championship on Wednesday.

Iran had previously defeated Chile 25-24 and lost to Montenegro 34-31, and Spain 35-22 in Group A.

Veselin Vujovic’s men are drawn in the group I along with France, Slovenia, Montenegro, Poland and Spain.

Team Melli will play France and Poland on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

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

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

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

Hossein Vafaei beaten by Judd Trump at World Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei of Iran lost to Judd Trump at the World Grand Prix in Cheltenham Tuesday night.

Ahead of his match, Trump admitted in an interview with ITV Sport that he was not going to be 100%, with his encounter against Vafaei coming just two days after the high of winning the Masters at Alexandra Palace on Sunday.

Trump compiled a brace of century breaks in coming from 2-1 behind to beat the Iranian 4-2 at the Centaur.

“I’m very pleased – probably one of the best performances of my season so far,” Judd Trump told the World Snooker Tour.

“Hossein put me under pressure early on, and I knew I had to play well. I made quite a few good breaks out there, and I’m happy with the win.”

Reflecting on his triumph at the Masters, Trump hopes it will act as a springboard to further success in ranking events this season.

“It’s a little bit different (to his 2019 Masters victory) because the manner wasn’t as good, but I kind of won it in a different way.”

Kashani appointed Iran U23 football team director: official

TEHRAN - Habib Kashani has been officially appointed as director of Iran U23 football team.

The U23 football team have been without a coach since Mehdi Mahdavia stepped down from his role in last year’s September.

Kashani has previously worked as Persepolis club general manager.

The officials of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) had said they would appoint a new head coach but they have not fulfilled their promise yet.

Iran will have to participate at the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification, which will act as the AFC qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics men’s football tournament.

The qualification which will decide the participating teams of the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup, will be held from Sept. 4 to 12, 2023.

Nemati, Pakdel deemed surplus to requirements in Persepolis

TEHRAN – Siamak Nemati and Hamed Pakdel have been deemed surplus to requirements in Persepolis.

The two players are allowed to leave the club in the January transfer window.

Persepolis are going to sign several new players to strengthen their team in the second half of the Iran Professional League.

Pakdel joined Persepolis last season and scored five goals for the team but was forced to sit on the bench due to the injury.

Midfielder Nemati has also remained an unused substitute in the current season.

The Reds are currently leader of the table.

Iranian, Russian officials discuss developing sports coop.

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Sports and Youths Affairs Hamid Sajadi held a meeting with the visiting Russian President’s Special Aide Igor Levitin to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of sports.

Sajadi hosted the visiting Russian President’s Special Aide Igor Levitin and his accompanying delegation at the sports ministry’s compound in Tehran on Tuesday.

The meeting was held to develop bilateral cooperation between Iran and Russia in the field of sports, according to a statement by the Iranian sports ministry.

A number of Iranian sports officials were present in the meeting.

Esteghlal goalkeeper Hosseini misses Sepahan match

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team goalkeeper Hossein Hosseini missed the match against Sepahan.

The custodian sustained a foot injury in the match against Tractor last week in Iran’s Hazfi Cup Round of 32.

Esteghlal will have to play Sepahan on Thursday in Isfahan.

The loss against the Isfahan based team could cost them the league title.

Titleholders Esteghlal are currently fourth in the table with 27 points, five points behind Iran league leaders Persepolis.

Cooperation between Iran, Syria free zones to be boosted



Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Hojatollah Abdolmaleki (1st L) meet with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Shafiq Dayoub (C) in Tehran on Wednesday

TEHRAN – Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, has said cooperation between the free trade and special economic zones of Iran and Syria will be expanded, IRNA reported.

“Regarding the cooperation of the free zones, technical and specialized correspondence between the two countries has already been carried out and the agreements are nearing finalization,” Abdolmaleki said on Wednesday, in a meeting with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Shafiq Dayoub.

According to Abdolmaleki, Iran is currently focusing on the expansion of cooperation with Syria's Hassia Free Zone and the two sides are working together to implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in this regard.

In this meeting, the Syrian ambassador also welcomed the idea of signing cooperation MOUs with Iranian free zones and said: “The officials of the two countries are unanimous in this regard.”

In late December 2022, Dayoub said his country was determined for the expansion of economic cooperation with Iran.

“The Syrian government is ready and determined to strengthen bilateral relations in all areas,” the envoy said in a meeting with Mohammad Hosseini, Iranian vice president for parliamentary affairs.

In last May, Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of

Commerce held an Iran-Syria business forum at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran, in which representatives of the two countries' private sectors exchanged views on ways of expanding trade ties and removing barriers.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, and Shafiq Dayoub.

Addressing the ceremony, Shafeie said, ““Our efforts are aimed at increasing the level of economic exchanges between the two countries to the level of political relations”.

Although over the past few years the conditions have been improved for the development of the relations between the two sides, there is still a long way ahead to reaching the desired economic relations, he said.

The official called on the governments of the two countries to take practical steps in order to resolve the issues that the traders of the two sides are currently facing and said: “In order to develop economic exchanges we need to create a comprehensive roadmap to clear the outlook of economic cooperation between the two countries.”

“Our plan is to increase the level of mutual trade to \$1 billion in the first phase, and realizing this goal requires the strong presence of the Iranian private sector in Syrian markets,” he said.

Further in the forum, Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Dayoub delivered a speech, in which he stressed Iran and Syria's great political relations and the determination of the two country's leaders for expanding relations in other areas like trade as well.

He mentioned the long history of relations between the two countries and said Iran and Syria have been friends for so long and now that both nations are facing unjust sanctions, they must join hands to neutralize these sanctions.

He welcomed Shafeie's suggestion for creating a practical roadmap for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries and said: “We hope that the outcomes of this business forum would be documented in the form of a general roadmap for boosting economic relations between the two sides.”



motorcycle manufacturers have sought to boost local sourcing of parts and components in recent years, adding that more than 60 percent of the parts needed to produce certain Iranian motorcycle models are manufactured inside the country.

He said that three Iranian motorcycle manufacturers had launched engine production platforms in recent months to further deepen their local production capacities.

Iran has 56 motorcycle manufacturing companies of which only 30 are fully active. The industry provides permanent jobs to 16,000 people.

and the second market's index climbed 7,249 points.

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

from page 1 ► In the last month of 2022, the average price of Iranian heavy oil was reported to be \$79.11, which has decreased by \$9.62 compared to the previous month.

Iran has been ramping up its oil production and exports over the past year as the country has been implementing new strategies to overcome U.S. sanctions.

A recent report by Reuters stated that Iran's oil exports have reached new highs in the last two months of 2022 and are making a strong start to 2023 despite U.S. sanctions.

According to ship tracking data, the Islamic Republic's oil exports have risen mostly due to the higher shipments to China and Venezuela.

Energy consultant SVB International said Iran's crude exports in December averaged 1,137 million barrels per day, up 42,000 bpd from November and the highest 2022 figure SVB has reported based on estimates given earlier.

“In comparison to the Trump administration, there hasn't been any serious crackdown or action against Iran's oil exports,” said Sara Vakhshouri of SVB. “January exports were so far strong like previous months.”

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



Iran's annual oil output grew 7% in 2022: OPEC

export its oil.”

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

Kpler, a data intelligence firm, put Iranian crude exports at 1.23 million bpd in November, the highest since

August 2022 and almost on a par with April 2019's rate of 1.27 million bpd, although they slipped to just below 1 million bpd in December.

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

“Most of these shipments

Tehran, Moscow stress accelerating INSTC development

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash in a Tuesday meeting with the Russian president's special envoy Igor Levitin reviewed the progress in railway cooperation between the two countries and stressed accelerating the development of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Bazrpash and Levitin also talked about Iran's railway projects that Russia is already participating in and explored ways of developing cooperation even further, the portal of Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Transport Minister Shahriar Afandizadeh and Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railway (known as RAI) Seyyed Miad Salehi.

Iran and Russia have been cooperating in various transportation projects as both countries are taking serious steps for neutralizing the impacts of the U.S. sanctions.

The INSTC has been the main focus of the collaborations between Tehran and Moscow and the Russian side has been proposing to fund various railway projects along the mentioned route.

Earlier this month, Tehran and Moscow held negotiations on completing the Rasht-Astara railway project which is a main railroad along the INSTC.

Iran has presented its proposed memorandum with 16 articles to determine how Russia will participate and invest in the Rasht-Astara railway project, Afandizadeh said on January 9.

According to the official, the Russian government is interested in participating in the completion of the Rasht-Astara railway by providing financial assistance.

In this regard, a bilateral memorandum between Iran and Russia has been proposed and a tripartite memorandum has been concluded between Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan, which follows the joint statement signed by the transport ministers of the three countries, according to Afandizadeh.

Although Iran has held negotiations with Russia as well as Azerbaijan in order to participate in the completion of the Rasht-Astara railway, the country will complete the project whether Russia participates in it or not, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Afandizadeh added that in the 13th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee meeting, an understanding was



Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash (R) shakes hand with Russian president's special envoy Igor Levitin in Tehran on Tuesday

reached regarding the transfer of 10 million tons of goods until 2023. The three countries of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan also agreed on transferring 15 million tons of goods as well.

The International North-South Transport Corridor is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between Iran, India, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Motorcycle production up 80% in 9 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Motorbike production in Iran has grown 80 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022) compared to the same period last year, as local manufacturers seek to ramp up exports to neighboring countries.

According to the secretary of Iran's Association of Motorbike Industry, about 325,000 motorcycles were produced over the nine months period of the current year, IRIB reported.

Bahman Zia' Moghaddam said that the annual output of motorcycles in Iran is expected to reach over 400,000 units in the current calendar year which ends in late March 2023.

Zia' Moghaddam earlier said that Iranian manufacturers of motorbikes are struggling with relatively low levels of exports, especially to neighboring countries where affordable Chinese brands have a strong presence in the markets.

He also blamed restrictions on banking transactions because of foreign sanctions on Iran as a major hurdle to expanding exports of motorbikes from the country.

However, Zia' Moghaddam said that Iranian

TEDPIX gains 2,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 2,090 points to 1.689 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 15.681 billion securities worth 86.633 trillion rials (about \$216.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 554 points,

Construction of 696 workshops completed in industrial parks

TEHRAN – As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), the construction of 696 workshops have been completed in the industrial parks of the country.

Ali Rasoulia said, “We have planned to build 1,746 workshop units in the industrial parks and zones of the country, of which 696 units have been already completed.”

Out of 696 completed units, 222 units were built by provincial companies and 474 units by the private sector, and 264 workshop units are also under construction, he added.

As previously announced by the official, 1,433 small workshop units were established in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March

20, 2022), most of which were the production and knowledge-based units with high technology.

According to the ISIPO head, 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the country's industrial parks and zones during the previous year.

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

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

The official has also recently



announced that over 2,000 idle units have returned to the production cycle since the current government took office in August 2021.

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

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

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

The press department of China's Foreign Ministry, in response to a Reuters request for comment, said: “The legitimate and reasonable cooperation between China and Iran under the international legal framework deserves respect and protection,” without directly addressing Reuters query on China's record Iranian oil purchases.

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

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

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

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

The bill has estimated the government's budget at 21.64 quadrillion rials (about \$54.1 billion).

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

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

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

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



“The Die is Cast” for the U.S. ...

From page 1 ► yet again simply to pay off outstanding Treasury debt by issuing newly minted debt with printed “money”. If ever a U.S. President was correct in warning about the future, Dwight Eisenhower was the man in 1960 when he left the White House saying that the Military Industrial Complex, back then not nearly as vast as it is today, could become a danger to America at the very least.

Medea Benjamin came to North Carolina for a day to speak factually about the proxy U.S. war on Ukraine. She explained exactly what has been happening, and why, and especially that the U.S. Neocons actually started planning this proxy war a decade or so ago when it became evident that Vladimir Putin was pulling Russia up by its bootstraps and reviving at least a shadow internally and economically of what Russia had been when the Soviet Union was strong enough to limit to some degree if not grossly challenge the U.S. as the world’s dominant nation.

Benjamin’s core message has always been the futility of U.S. wars except for a small minority of people in the military and in corporations that feed the monstrous military complex and get rich in the process. She was asked by one person in her audience whether one of the biggest

reason the U.S. has embarked on so much militarism this century is because the U.S. economy over the last 30 years or so has become so relatively hollowed out and de-industrialized that in many respects the “economy” has simply become largely one of military activity and production of arms by companies like Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed-Martin plus all the countless smaller firms whose only viable businesses have been to support militarism? Her answer to this was more or less in the affirmative. And it’s worth remarking that one reason the U.S. economy has been failing slowly this century is because U.S. corporations offshored much of its former industrial might to other countries with far cheaper labor, especially China, which in just a few decades has created something like a billion-strong middle class of sorts out of poverty.

For those majority billions of people outside the West whose disgust with the U.S. has been rapidly ascending for years, they have witnessed a China that has done relative wonders for its citizens and others without policies that amount to gross parasitism (and the afflictions of violence and crushing sanctions and, yes, arrogance and outright theft) that by now have isolated the U.S. like never before and

created enmity for the U.S. It’s a wonder Europe has not yet gone its independent way while the Bidenists have aimed to de-industrial Europe and make it more dependent on the U.S. But many Europeans are protesting except you don’t hear or see much about that in the Western media.

All the obvious reams of propaganda springing forth from the mainstream U.S. media condemning other countries like China and Iran and Russia for an alleged total absence of “democracy” must be a sad joke to well over half the world’s people. Because in fact the U.S. where criticism of Washington is widely manipulated and suppressed by the media, real “democracy” has become but a faint shadow of what existed 50 years ago in the U.S. when, for example, millions of people repeatedly protested (with eventual success) the madness of the Vietnam War and helped end it finally in 1975. Consider that arguably the finest economist in the U.S. and one of the country’s best minds, one Jeffrey Sachs who taught at Harvard and now presides at Columbia University, has become vehemently opposed to the U.S. proxy war on Ukraine and as a result stated this month that he can no longer place an op-ed article in a major U.S. newspaper like the New York Times or Washington Post.

Now, those Americans whose eyes are wide open like Medea Benjamin’s await sadly the dangerous denouement for decades of belligerent foreign policy: the further decline of U.S. economic and dollar dominance and financial bankruptcy that is now and is going to crush further most all Americans like never before. For the people of countries like Iran, who don’t necessarily want any innocent people anywhere “crushed”, there is at least the relatively pleasant prospect that with gathering inevitability the U.S. literally will be incapable of meddling and making or supporting wars that much longer. (It will have to start tending its own citizens more if it can.) As Julius Caesar exclaimed when he crossed the Rubicon and headed to Rome with a Roman Legion of soldiers under his command in 49 B.C.: “The die is cast”... in this current case, for a U.S. ultimately emasculated and on the ropes.

The extreme danger is that, in a fit of pique at evaporating fortunes, insane U.S. “leaders” in the government and the Pentagon will drag humanity into a third world war that will utterly dwarf the two in the last century and involve nuclear weapons.

No one anywhere with sensibility and some knowledge can possibly not be alarmed. And Biden’s and his administration’s insistence (and by many in the U.S. Congress, too) on not negotiating an end to the proxy war on Russia in Ukraine is the certain spark. They believe a competitive Russia will be destroyed.

For honest and concerned souls like Medea Benjamin who with great courage have tried to educate average Americans, Zelensky’s lionized recent visit to Washington, and the subsequent suggestion put forth to place a sculpted bust of Zelensky in the Capitol building as some sort of hero, has to be the apogee of Washington’s blighted mentality.

Zelensky is just as responsible, if not more responsible, for the destruction in Ukraine and hundreds of thousands of slaughtered Ukrainians. He could have brought the war to a halt last Spring, but then he was swayed not to negotiate an end by former British PM Boris Johnson and others in the U.S. and the E.U.

Canada First Nation detects 171 ‘plausible graves’ at former residential school

Another Canada First Nation tribe said Tuesday that 171 unmarked “plausible graves” have been detected at the site of a former Indian Residential School.

Ground-penetrating radar was used in the cemetery area of St. Mary’s Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario, the Wauzhushk Onigum Nation said in a press release.

“With the exception of five grave markers, the remaining are unmarked by any grave or burial markers,” the release said.

The radar could have detected tree roots or large stones, so without further tests, it is not known if all the graves contain human remains.

The Wauzhushk Onigum Nation, which still has 50 survivors of the school who attended in the 1940s to 1960s, said more searches will be done at other sites “that have been identified through survivor testimony, archeological assessment and archival investigations that show burial rituals conducted by former residential school staff.”

The graves are likely those of children since Canada’s National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation said at least 36 students died while attending St. Mary’s. The school was operated by the Catholic Church from 1897 to 1972.

It was one of 139 Indian Residential Schools set up and funded by the Canadian government and run by religious denominations beginning in the mid-1800s. The last one closed in 1996. Indigenous children were forced to attend and the original goal was to stamp out Indigenous culture and replace it with white culture.

About 150,000 children attended the schools and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Commission has estimated that at last 4,100 children died from disease and malnutrition while others suffered physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

The children were often buried at the schools and their parents too often were never informed of their deaths. Close to 1,900 graves have been located in the last few years using ground-penetrating radar.

Lavrov hails Moscow-Beijing ties, accuses US of provocations

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has hailed joint military drills between Moscow and Beijing as a move that strengthens the pair’s new strategic partnership.

Addressing reporters in Moscow on Wednesday, Lavrov also accused the West of searching for ways to anger China on a host of issues, such as the status

of Tibet and Taiwan.

He said China was too powerful for the United States to stand against on its own, so Washington was being forced to “mobilize” the West to support its anti-Beijing agenda.

As the war in Ukraine rages, China and Russia have put aside decades of mutual distrust and stepped up military exercises to align their foreign policies.

They signed a “no limits” partnership last February, days before Moscow sent its armed forces into Ukraine and their economic links have boomed as Russia’s connections with the West have shrivelled.

However, Beijing is treading carefully.

President Vladimir Putin has publicly acknowledged that his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, has “concerns” over Russia’s actions in Ukraine.

Lavrov warned that Russia’s showdown with the West over Ukraine was part of a global policy shift that will evolve over a long period.

“The process of forming a multipolar world order will be long; it will take an epoch,” he said. “And we are in the middle of that process now.”

He cited Western efforts to hamper the widening cooperation between Russia and China, maintaining they would not succeed.

German police clear another environmental activist camp after Lutzerath

After German police cleared activists preventing the demolition of a western village to make way for a coal mine, they have now removed environmentalists protesting a road expansion near Frankfurt, said an official statement on Wednesday.

Authorities have been clearing the activist camp in the Fechenheim Forest near the city since Wednesday morning, just hours after the village of Lutzerath was emptied about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west, the Frankfurt police announced on its website.

The activists, occupying the area for more than a year, were trying to block the construction of a new highway route to run through part of the forest in eastern Frankfurt.

Traffic in the area was diverted for the eviction, with the A66 highway closed.

Planned for decades, the 2.2-kilometer (about 1.4 miles) connection between the A66 to the eastern bypass A661 is to be routed through the 2.7-hectare (6.7 acres) wooded area, with roughly half of its length to run underground in the planned Riederwald Tunnel.

Opponents of the project have been erecting barricades and more than a dozen sturdy huts for a year, including some on the ground and others 10 to 15 meters high in the trees.



Helicopter crash near Kyiv kills 16, including Ukrainian interior minister

From page 1 ► Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky, First Deputy Minister Yevheniy Yenin and State Secretary Yuriy Lubkovychis died, Anton Geraschenko, a ministry adviser, confirmed on social media.

All nine people onboard the helicopter (six ministry officials and three crew members) were killed, leaving another seven dead on the ground, including three children, Tymoshenko said. A search

and rescue operation is continuing, he added.

The Ukrainian Security Services, the SBU, has launched an investigation into the crash, and posted on Facebook that “several versions of the tragedy are being considered.”

They include: “violation of flight rule, technical malfunction of the helicopter (and) deliberate actions to destroy the helicopter.”

Hezbollah chief lauds Gen. Soleimani as ‘great leader’ in fight against Daesh, Israel



The secretary general of Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement has lauded sacrifices made by Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, saying the iconic commander was a “great leader” who defeated the Daesh terrorist group and stopped Israel from further occupation.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in a televised speech from Dahiyeh in the south of the Lebanese capital of Beirut on Tuesday during a ceremony in commemoration of the third anniversary of General Soleimani’s martyrdom in a US drone attack in Iraq as well as the latest developments in Lebanon and the whole region.

Speaking at the ceremony titled ‘Soleimani International Award for Resistance Literature,’ Nasrallah said the top commander surpasses both time and place, and belongs not only to Iran but to all nations.

“Martyr Soleimani is a martyr...that transcends time and place. He is not a martyr of Iraq, Iran or Syria, but rather a martyr of the

entire world. He was a great leader during the battle with Daesh and pushed back Israelis way beyond their walls,” Nasrallah said.

“Soleimani was a prominent, sublime, and key leader in the battle that barred the Americans from occupying our region,” the Hezbollah leader added. “He was the liaison of communication within the Axis of Resistance and a great leader in defeating the ‘Greater Israel’ scheme.”

Nasrallah said General Soleimani’s most important characteristic was his “moral strength and unparalleled courage” that inspired all those who worked with him.

The Hezbollah chief said General Soleimani had a great potential to impress the future generations, and that it is our duty to remember and present the personalities of martyrs like him.

“In every generation, we need models such as these martyrs, who are present in every battlefield, and whose names must be revived

as they represent a massive intellectual and spiritual wealth that we must not underestimate. We must do this for ourselves and not for their sake alone,” Nasrallah noted.

‘No bloc wants presidential vacuum to continue’

Pointing to the presidential vacuum in Lebanon, Nasrallah highlighted outside and inside pressure for the election of a head of state.

“Everyone wants to end the presidential vacuum so that the government can be formed and things can return to their normal course,” Nasrallah said. “The point is that there are multiple parliamentary blocs and no one has a majority.”

“It is the natural right of any bloc to say that it does not want a president close to Hezbollah,” he added. “No bloc wants the presidential vacuum to continue.”

US blocking Iranian energy offers in Lebanon

Pointing to the energy crisis in Lebanon, Nasrallah said, “Everyone in Lebanon is experiencing the problem of electricity and fuel that goes beyond sects and factions, and its effects extend to the economy and people’s natural life.”

“Months ago, we were told to secure fuel from Iran for 6 months, to raise the hours of electricity supply to 8 hours, and put Lebanon on the track of for a solution,” Nasrallah added.

“We took the initiative and contacted Iran, and they agreed to the Lebanese request for fuel. The offer of Iranian fuel to Lebanon is still valid but the Americans are the ones preventing its implementation,” he said.

(Source: Press TV)

Kerman festival to spotlight giant coppice dunes



TEHRAN – The tourism directorate of Kerman province is scheduled to hold a local festival in celebration of nabkhas, which are sand dunes formed around vegetation.

The ancient town of Fahraj will play host to the weeklong event that includes cooking local dishes, a camel riding competition, and local indigenous games such as Chuchab and tug-of-war, CHTN reported.

Situated adjacent to the UNESCO-registered Lut desert, Fahraj, and its surroundings are home to giant types of nabkha that are known as coppice dune, shrub-coppice, hummock, rebdou, or photogenic mound.

Live performances, handicraft sale exhibits, and local rituals are other elements to be held at the event, which is scheduled to start on January 30, the report said.

In October 2021, the “world’s largest” was found in the Lut Desert, the director of the World Heritage site announced. Having a height of 21 meters, the nabkha is taller than those in Africa and some desert regions of the world, Mehran Maqsudi explained.

The creation of nabaka is closely linked

to the type of plant, wind direction and the amount of sand source. In the desert lands, everything is created from the wind and soil erosion and saltwater, but nabkha symbolizes the synergy of the plants and the arid region of the Lut Desert.

Lut Desert and Sahara in Africa are the only places in the world where nabkha species are observed. Nabkha is generally found on flat surfaces with moderate sand levels and high groundwater levels or enough moisture to grow plants.

These natural phenomena are a result of the interaction of wind erosion, moisture, and vegetation in the area. The plants gradually form sand dunes at the bottom by obstructing the sand storm and accumulating sand.

The origin of nabkha is the plants, however, it can be considered that nabakha will be formed in all desert lands where vegetable life is in progress.

Nabakha’s shape is a function of the size, density, and growth of the host plant. There is a type of Tamarisk tree in the region that is the main host of the nabkha. These Tamarisk trees must have a height of 10 to 15 centimeters in length at least to be able to control the sand.

If the sand grains do not adhere to the clay elements, their volume might be changed by variations in wind speed. By increasing the amount of sand at the foot of the plant, the plant continues to grow in an upward direction to prevent its burial. The plant continues growing as well as the plant’s root is connected to the groundwater level. But where the groundwater level drops, nabkha dies.

Hotel capacity in Semnan up 25 percent year on year

TEHRAN – The hotel capacity rate in Semnan province has increased by 25 percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20, 2022), compared to the same period a year earlier, the provincial tourism chief has said.

“The average stay in tourism facilities of the province has been 73% since the beginning of this year, which has increased by 25% compared to the same period last year,” Amir Akramzadeh said on Wednesday.

The official attached great importance to conducting regular inspections of hotels and other accommodation facilities.

“Monitoring and field visits to hotels and other tourism facilities are very important to assess the quality of their services,” he said.

The charming province is bordered to the north by Golestan and Mazandaran, to the northeast by North Khorasan, to the west by Tehran and Qom, to the south by Isfahan, to the southeast by South Khorasan, and to the east by Razavi Khorasan.



Situated on the way of invasions and migrations between East and West, Semnan embraces the remains of the most important ancient civilizations, including historical areas, cisterns, and aqueducts with multiple unique architectures related to various eras.

The province can be split into two sections: the plains at the base of the mountains and the mountainous region. While the latter includes some ancient Iranian cities, including one of the capitals of the ancient Parthian Empire, the former offers opportunities for recreational activities as well as being a source of minerals.

Historical Tekyeh undergoes restoration



TEHRAN – Biglarbeigi Tekyeh, a 19th-century religious place in western Kermanshah province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of three billion rials (\$7,500) has been allocated to the project, Daryush Farmani explained on Wednesday.

The project involves replacing worn-out materials, repairing damaged parts, and painting doors and walls, the official added.

Inscribed on the national heritage list, the historical monument is one of the top tourist attractions of the province, which attracts several travelers each year, he noted.

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.

Iranophobia a major obstacle to tourism growth, expert says

TEHRAN – A major obstacle to the growth of Iran’s tourism industry is Iranophobia which has spread all over the world in recent years, the director of Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex has said.

Iranophobia is widespread throughout the world, as superpowers do not want Iran to attract money, attention or economic growth, Bijan Moqadam explained on Wednesday.

To deal with this issue and develop the country’s tourism sector, Iran’s relationship with other countries and maintaining security within the country are one of the very serious and important components, the cultural heritage expert added.

Iran could certainly encourage more groups to visit the country if the conditions of society are safe, he noted.

For the development of domestic tourism, it is also



important to facilitate travel and make travel cheaper, as well as boost infrastructure for travel in the country, he mentioned.

Long shunned by Western travelers, the Islamic Republic has steadily stepped-up efforts to use tourism, over the past couple of years, to help promote its

international image battered by endless opposition mostly from the U.S.

Experts believe even before the pandemic, Iran’s tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western “media propaganda” aimed at scaring potential

travelers away from the Islamic Republic. They say Iran is still somehow “unknown” to many potential travelers due to such a “media war.”

Before the COVID pandemic, Iran’s tourism had constantly been growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019). That surge, however, helped prejudices to become thick and thin.

However, Iran’s trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts. As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers, to name a few.

Traces of millennia-old town discovered in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have found traces of a city, estimated to date back to the 3rd millennium BC, in Qareh Qozlu historical site, West Azarbaijan, northwestern Iran, an Iranian archaeologist has said.

This 30-hectare site of Qareh Qozlu, located near the same name village in Miandoab county and southeast of Lake Urmia, is regarded as one of the most important and prominent archaeological sites of the region, especially during the Bronze Age, when urbanization began, Ebrahim Kharazi said on Wednesday.

The vast area of the site, the presence of bone tools, furnace welds, and burnt and smoked pottery show that this area was one of the important industrial and production centers in the Bronze Age, he added.

Different geometric, animal, and plant patterns are visible on the discovered relics, demonstrating the creativity and strength of



the makers, he mentioned.

Water sources and underground mines in this area have helped the production of various artifacts, he explained.

There is evidence that specialized and mass production occurred in this area based on the proximity to water sources, production techniques, form, and the decorations on the

discovered pottery, he noted.

A large part of this area was dedicated to the production of stone tools, bones, shells, pottery, and cooking and storage activities, he said.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander’s generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

Handicraft sales fall to near zero as currency slides to new low

TEHRAN – Handicraft sales in Isfahan have dropped to near zero as Iranian currency slides to a new low over the past couple of weeks, IMNA quoted Isfahan’s head of the handicrafts union as saying on Wednesday.

“We are currently dealing with some issues as a result of a new decline in Iranian currency (against the U.S. dollar), resulting in an unprecedented recession in the handicrafts market to the point where the sales of these days are close to zero,” Majdoddin Taj explained.

That currency devaluation has soared in the price of raw materials, he said. “Some 80% of [Isfahan’s] traditional handicrafts are made of copper, and the increase in the price of this metal has made a huge impact on their sales.”

Furthermore, the expert



outlined the kinds of protection the government can provide to craftspeople in terms of marketing, incentives, tourism prosperity, and cultural events.

He stressed the need for greater support from the government to add: “Having enormous copper industries in our country, a special quota for copper should be dedicated to handicraft artists.”

“This way, craftspeople do not have to buy copper material

through the stock exchange so that intermediaries and other mediators will be removed from their purchases.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, he reminded handicraft sales happening in several ways; through exports and retail customers that include domestic or foreign travelers.

“With today’s tough economic outlook, buying a handicraft is not a priority for households.”

His talk on the issue defined recent travel cancellations as the other reason for the recession. “A blow to our sales has happened through trip cancellations.”

According to data compiled by Isfahan’s tourism directorate, more than 8,000 foreign tourists have canceled their trips to Isfahan over the past few months, he said.

“If every tourist spends \$5,000 on average, it will become a considerable number. Unfortunately, despite the recent events and disturbances, this great economic benefit has not been achieved.”

Furthermore, the expert reminded sister cities of Isfahan as a great help. “Holding joint exhibitions in sister cities is highly recommended as a solution to promote exquisite works.”

In addition to generating income, such a presence will help to highlight the arts, culture, and civilization of Iran and Isfahan in particular, he stated.

Isfahan, which is home to about 3,000 artisans and is sometimes referred to as Iran’s handicraft industry’s crown jewel, is where its craftspeople work to preserve knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

Precious stones documented at Niavaran palace

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian cultural heritage experts has studied and documented tens of precious and semi-precious stones, which are being kept at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex.

Some 106 precious and semi-precious stones along with a number of fossils from Ahmad Shahi Pavilion Museum were studied, categorized, and documented, said Iraj Beheshti, who presided over the project, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Among the studied stones are rough quartz rocks with different colors, as well as minerals



such as pyrite, chalcopyrite, stibnite, sulfur, and a variety of fish fossils, ammonites, and

trilobites, he added.

Covering an area of about eleven hectares, Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras. The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad Shahi Pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

Khomein holds potential to become tourism hub

TEHRAN – The ancient city of Khomein has considerable potential to become a major tourist destination, Markazi province’s tourism chief has said.

There are many capacities in Khomein that demonstrate this city’s antiquity and civilization,

Mostafa Marzban explained on Wednesday.

It is on the agenda of the cultural heritage department of the province to turn the city into a tourism hub, the official added.

As the birthplace of Imam

Khomeini, the founding father of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khomein is well known throughout the country. Tourists can visit his parental house, which is a historical monument.

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the

country. It is also rich in natural, historical, cultural and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and klms, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Lilivan, Senejan, and Vafs are known internationally.

TEHRAN - Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, plans to build schools observing the Iranian-Islamic identity.

The Foundation plans to take action regarding the architecture of future schools, Mohammad Torkamaneh, the CEO of Barekat Foundation said.

Building schools with the Iranian-Islamic identity is on the agenda of Barekat Foundation, he stressed.

Referring to the first national event of future schools, he said that the event was designed in order to be able to efficiently use the knowledge of talented students to build schools in the future using the most up-to-date technology.

The event was held on January 10 with the aim of promoting the use of knowledge-based technologies in schools.

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

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

Pointing out that 111 plans have been sent to the secretariat of the event, he said that 10 of the plans have been selected and are to be implemented in 10



Building schools with Iranian-Islamic identity on agenda

schools in cooperation with the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools.

"If we succeed in implementing these plans in selected schools, we will expand these ideas in the construction of future schools," he added.

The CEO of Barekat Foundation went on to say that the selection of these 10 schools is the responsibility of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools.

Barkat Foundation has announced its readiness to implement these plans in schools, he said, adding that the plans are supposed to be implemented and built in the next Iranian calendar year which starts on March 21.

Moreover, Barekat Foundation is also planning to adopt measures in the field of the architecture of schools in the future, Torkamaneh said, emphasizing the need for paying atten-

tion to Iranian-Islamic architecture.

He believes that in addition to using technology for education, the architecture of schools should also be made in accordance with Iran's landscape and identity.

Earlier, Torkamaneh said the Foundation will inaugurate 150 new schools in the current school year which began on September 23, 2022.

He added that 150 schools with 632 classrooms will be inaugurated in rural and underprivileged areas of the country.

Torkamaneh said in August that Barekat Charity Foundation is planning to build a total of 2,700 schools using new ideas and technologies.

The Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and training camps, and green management of schools, will be taken into consideration in the construction of these schools, he said.

Some 3,750 villages across the country are covered by the Barekat Foundation's school-building activities.

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

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



to 6,000 square kilometers.

The lake is designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, Ramsar Site, as well as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, which is a protected area with the aim of conserving nature and culture in the region and community development.

However, the water in the lake has been decreasing during the past years. The water surface area shrank by approximately 80 percent of its (once-large) original size at the end of the dry season in 2013 and by approximately 70 percent at the end of the rainy season of the same year.

Restoration measures caused the level of Lake Urmia to reach 1278 meters in 1995 and 1274 meters in 2005 and finally, it stood at 1270 meters in 2015.

Based on the studies and according to the statement of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program, 18 percent of the drying was due to climate change and 82 percent was due to the mismanagement of water resources in the catchment area, Somayeh Rafiei, a member of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament), has said.

The water level of Lake Urmia was supposed to reach 1274.1 by 2028.

Researchers have realized that the situation of Lake Urmia in the last 20 years is not fully related to a lack of rainfall, which shows that the share of human factors has been higher.

Tehran, Dushanbe call for enhanced scientific co-op

From page 1 ► The Exchange of academic staff members, cooperation of academic staff members in scientific projects, and participation in scientific seminars of the two countries should be strengthened, he highlighted.

The Tajik official, for his part, pointed out that Tajikistan is interested in cooperating with Iran, saying: "By exchanging the scientific achievements of the two countries, we can further help the development of the two countries."

"We are ready for the participation of Iranian professors in scientific conferences of Tajikistan," the president of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan added.

In July 2022, Peyman Salehi, the deputy science minister, said despite U.S. sanctions, the international activities of Iranian scientists have increased year by year, so that more than 35 percent of Iranian articles in Scopus have been multi-national projects.

He made the remarks at the COMSTech (the Ministerial Standing Committee on

Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) ceremony.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships.

In 2021, Iranian scientists published more than 77,000 scientific articles in the Scopus database, so that, Iran has been ranked 15th in science production, he said, IRNA reported.



The country also ranked 15th and 16th in the world in terms of scientific references, he added.

Pointing to the history of Iran's scien-

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 45

Neiriz Lakes & Kamjan Marshes

Neyriz Lakes & Kamjan Marshes Wildlife Refuge includes two very large saline lakes in a closed, high altitude drainage basin; contiguous during very wet winters but may become completely dry in exceptionally dry years.

The site embraces the extensive, permanent freshwater Kamjan marshes and supports a wide variety of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds.

Up to 50,000 flamingos may occur in winter, whilst other species include Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and cranes.

The surrounding areas are arid steppe hills and plains, with some cultivated land in the valley.

Drainage of the wetland for rice cultivation over the past few decades has greatly reduced the wetland size, resulting in its inclusion in the Montreux Record in 1990.

Overview

The site comprises two very salty lakes, Lake Bakhtegan and Lake Tashk, in the south-eastern Zagros mountains, their extensive 'delta' and spring-fed marshes, and a large area of permanent, freshwater marshes and seasonally flooded plains along the lower Kur River to the west (Kamjan Marshes).

The area is extremely important for breeding and wintering waterfowl of a wide variety of species, including Marmaronetta angustirostris. Both lakes are protected within the Bakhtegan wildlife refuge, but the Kamjan Marshes are unprotected.

Lake Bakhtegan and Lake Tashk are outstanding examples of saline lakes with associated fresh tobrackish marshes, characteristic to the highlands of western Iran.

The wetlands support substantial breeding and wintering populations of Marmaronetta angustirostris.

Two other globally threatened species, Anser erythropus and Aquila heliaca, occur in winter.

The two lakes and adjoining marshes support a very diverse flora and fauna, and thus help to maintain the genetic and ecological diversity of the region.

The lakes hold well in excess of 20,000 waterfowl during the migration seasons and in winter.

The wetland supports over 1% of the regional Middle East populations of the waterbirds Plegadis falcinellus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phoenicopiterus ruber, at least nine species of Anatidae, Fulica atra,

Grus grus, Himantopus himantopus, Recur-

virostra avocetta, Calidris alpina, Limosa limosa and Larus ridibundus.

General location

The Neyriz Lakes and Kamjan Marshes are situated in the Province of Fars, in a large intermontane basin in the eastern Zagros mountains, 50-160 km east of Shiraz. There are several small settlements in the area.

Physical features

Lake Tashk and Lake Bakhtegan are salty lakes with a highly fluctuating water level, situated in an internal drainage basin (the Neyriz Basin).

The catchment area of 26,440 sq.km is formed where the northwest to southeast folded ridges of the Zagros Mountains impinge upon the buckled edge of the Central Plateau.

Lake Tashk is fed by the Kamjan Marshes and a large permanent spring at Gumoon in the northwest. Lake Bakhtegan receives its water mainly from the Kur River, which enters at the west

end, and from Sahlabad Spring on the south shore. In summer no water reaches the lake, since it's all used for irrigation purposes. Water levels in both lakes fluctuate widely according to rain and snowfall in the mountains.

During very wet winters the lakes may become temporarily joined to form a single expanse of water of up to 181,000 ha.

After very dry years the lakes may almost dry out except for small patches near their feeding springs. This is known to have occurred in 1933-1934 and 1971.

The average depth of Lake Bakhtegan is 50 cm, the maximum is 110 cm.

Both lakes are noted for their extraordinary range in salinities, from oligohaline at one end to hypersaline at the other.

The lake bottoms are covered by alluvial mud, sapropel, silt and some sand, deposited mainly by the river and flood waters.

Kamjan Marshes formerly comprised about 10,000 ha of permanent and seasonal marshes along the Kur River, but drainage of the wetland for rice cultivation since 1967 has converted a large part to agricultural land.

Despite this cultivation by drainage canals much wetland habitat remains, including expanses of wet

mudflats, reeds and other vegetation along canals, ditches and rice fields.

Because of a shortage of irrigation water and because of high salinities, much of the reclaimed land remains uncultivated.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghhan, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است. فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به اینکه حجم آب ورودی به دریاچه ارومیه باعث مرطوب شدن نمک‌های سطح دریاچه و کنترل ریزگردهای نمکی آن می‌شود افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است. وی با بیان اینکه کانون بحرانی ریزگرد در آذربایجان غربی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کند در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میان‌دوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند. طبق مصوبه دولت توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسی‌های انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعه‌ای انجام نشده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 18

New cases	130
New deaths	0
Total cases	7,562,998
Total deaths	144,728
New hospitalized patients	49
Patients in critical condition	202
Total recovered patients	7,336,884
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,912,475
Doses of vaccine injected	155,313,175

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

JANUARY 19, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the sufferings of the injured.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:15 Evening: 17:37 Dawn: 5:44 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:12 (tomorrow)

Jami: Life and works

Part 6

However, toward the end of the 18th century, Persian poetry in Persia again entered a neo-classical period with the bazgasht or ‘return movement’ (bazgasht-e adabi) and Jami’s reputation rose accordingly.

In the rejection of the stylistic norms of their immediate predecessors, Qajar critics dubbed Jami ‘the seal of the poets’ (khatam al-sho’ara), the last great representative of a classical tradition that died along with him at the end of the 15th century.

It is in this spirit that the modern literary historian Zabihollah Safa writes that Jami “must be accounted the last truly great master of Persian poetry”.

But only a couple of decades later an equally prominent literary critic, Mohammadreza Shafiei Kadkani, would write: “Those who have termed Jami the last in the line of poets of the Persian language have been greatly mistaken;” whoever was responsible for this notion “was ignorant or ill-informed as far as direct contact with the course of [the] history of Persian poetry was concerned”.

When Jami’s reputation is judged in such terms it is impossible to reconcile the disagreement; for those ages and critics that place a high value on poetic experimentation and innovation, Jami makes a clear target for the attack on conservative complacency.

On the other hand, to use Jami’s accomplishments to condemn all the poetry

written after him is no less a distortion of his work and his place in literary history.

Any balanced evaluation of Jami’s legacy must recognize his goals and aims as a neo-classicist. He was a prodigious and prolific talent with a vast knowledge of earlier tradition who devoted his energies throughout his long life, not to blazing new directions in the tradition, but to consolidating what had already been achieved.

His success in doing so provided a solid basis for later innovations of the poets of the ‘fresh style’ and even for the modern study of classical Persian literature.

Jami placed a high premium on the formal qualities of poetry, fluency and elegance of diction, and immediate comprehensibility. At the same time, he rarely goes beyond a stock treatment of the standard images and metaphors of the tradition, and his works sometimes seem a comprehensive digest of literary convention.

In retrospect, it appears that his reputation as a master poet during his lifetime owed much to his scholarship and political position.

In his works, however, one does find perhaps the fullest summation of the long history of the integration of the Sufi theosophy of Ebn al-Arabi with the Persian literary tradition, and it is here that his vast erudition is seen to its best advantage.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded.

Persian poetry: Bazgasht-e Adabi

Part 1

Bazgasht-e Adabi, “literary return,” a movement for a return to writing poetry in the Khorasani and Eragi styles, which began in the middle of the 18th century and continued until the time of the Constitutional Revolution and after.

The term was probably first used by Mohammad-Taqi Bahar. The origins of this movement should be traced to the changes that took place in the style of poetry beginning in the Timurid period, part of the continuous evolution of court poetry from the earliest times.

The broad period-styles called Khorasani and Eragi are usually delimited in time by important social and political changes in Iran.

The coming to power of the Safavids produced far-reaching sectarian and political changes. At the same time, the courts of “greater Iran” in Central Asia and more particularly in Mughal India began to experience increasing prosperity.

The abundant patronage of these courts attracted poets from Iran, some of whom made their careers outside their native country. This was the period of Indian style (sabk-e Hendi) poetry, which was written throughout the Iranian cultural area and against which the poets of the bazgasht-e adabi reacted in Iran proper.

Iran entered on a period of political turmoil and fragmentation that began in 1722 when Safavid rule was overthrown by Afghan invaders, and ended in the latter part of that century when Karim Khan Zand and afterwards the Qajars established their rule.

During this time there was essentially no patronage of poetry in the courts of the Afghans, Nader Shah or Karim Khan Zand. A

great deal of Indian style poetry continued to be written in Central Asia and India, however.

Patronage revived strongly under Fath-Ali Shah, who was a poet himself, and who supported an active literary entourage in his court.

Opinions of the esthetic merit of the Indian style vary, but it is generally agreed that the bazgasht-e adabi began as a reaction to it.

Iranian scholars and critics from Lotf-Ali Beg Azar (d. 1781) and Abd al-Razzaq Beg Donboli (1762-1827) to Rezaqoli Khan Hedayat in the 19th century and Mohammad-Taqi Bahar in the present century have generally deplored the Indian style.

Azar says, for example, “after he [i.e., Moshmaq] had broken the chain of verse that for years had been in the unworthy grip of poets of the past, with great effort and indescribable exertions he repaired it. Having destroyed for contemporary poets the foundation of versifying, he renewed the edifice of poetry built by the eloquent ancients.”

Hedayat says that Persian poetry had long been on the decline and by the end of the Zand period had become completely decadent. Bahar says that “by and large it was a style that began with weakness of words and poverty of meaning, and gained strength from an excess of images, figurative language and fanciful visions lacking in eloquence and true beauty. Its complications and weakness increased daily. . . . All in all, the Indian style was a mediocre poetic craft which through its clever supporters replaced all the Persian rhetorical devices and the concepts of expression, grammar and syntax.”

To be continued.

Iranian photographers top at Victor Polynsky Awards

From Page 1 ▶ Mehdi Zabolabbasi won the FIAP Gold Medal for his photo “Black Face” in the Portrait Color category. The photo shows several Iranian coal miners.

In this section, Mir Ali Parandak received an honorable mention for his photo “Hanieh”.

The FIAP Gold Medal in Creative Color was also awarded to Arlen Keshishian for his photo “Perspective”. He also won an honorable mention in Portrait Color.

Kiarang Alai’s “The Sign” won the FIAP Ribbon and Hossein Davui’s “Scarecrow” was granted the FPC Trophy in this section.

Alireza Baqeri-Sani and Morteza Tabatabai won honorable mentions.

“Hossein”, an image of a funeral by Amir-Hossein Honarvar, also won the FIAP Gold Medal in Photojournalism.

Saeid Arabzadeh, Amin Behjat, Mir Ali Parandak and Marzeyeh Shahroodi received honorable mentions.

The FIAP Ribbon in the Open Monochrome section was given to Saeid Arabzadeh for his photo “Face”, which depicts a tazieh performer.

Maryam Sadat Ahmadi, Abbas

“In a Row” by Kiarang Alai won the FPC Trophy in the Open Color section at the 4th Victor Polynsky Awards in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Hajihosseini-Kalantar, Reza Javadi and Mehdi Zabolabbasi won honorable mentions.

Kiarang Alai’s photo “In a Row”, which depicts some ducks walking in a straight line, won the FPC Trophy in the Open Color section.

Saeid Arabzadeh, Alireza Baqeri-Sani, Hossein Davudi, Amin Malekzadeh and Mohammad Mokhtarnia received

honorable mentions.

In the Landscape category, “Lake Urmia”, an image of the Iranian lake by Hossein Davudi, won the FIAP Ribbon.

Farzin Izaddoost-Dar and Golriz Khanalizadeh won honorable mentions.

A jury comprising Miroslav Predojevic from Serbia, Buket Ozatay from Cyprus and Ehsan

Mortazavi from Iran selected the winners.

The photography contest is organized by the Victor Polynsky Photo School.

It has been named after Victor Polynsky (1965-2013), a self-taught photographer who was born and raised in Kyrgyzstan. He was best known for his photos depicting the natural attractions of his homeland.

“The Runner” picked for Houston museum’s Festival of Films from Iran

Majid Nirumand acts in a scene from “The Runner” by Amir Naderi.

TEHRAN – The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) has picked Amir Naderi’s 1984 drama “The Runner” to screen at its 30th annual Festival of Films from Iran beginning Saturday.

A new-wave masterpiece of the post-revolution cinema, the film is often praised for having one of the best child performances of all time with Madjid Nirumand.

Inspired by Naderi’s own childhood, the film follows an illiterate, but resourceful,

11-year-old orphan (Nirumand), who lives alone in an abandoned tanker in the Iranian port city of Abadan. He survives by shining shoes, selling water and diving for deposit bottles thrown overboard by foreigners, while being bullied by adults and older kids. But he finds solace by dreaming about departing cargo ships and airplanes and by running, seemingly to nowhere.

Nirumand’s performance in “The Runner” was named #12 in a list of “The 25 Greatest Child Performances in Cinema History” on the film site Taste of Cinema. The Los Angeles Times called it “the greatest performance ever given by a child.”

The lineup for the MFAH Festival of Films from Iran also consists of five other films, including “The Apple Day” by Mahmud Ghaffari and “Destiny” by Yaser Talebi.

In the acclaimed drama “The Apple Day”, first-grader Mehdi’s father is an apple seller in Tehran. Mehdi’s school teacher asks each student to bring objects for each letter of the alphabet. Medhi is assigned to bring 30

Makoto Shinkai’s novel “Weathering With You” appears in Persian

TEHRAN – “Weathering With You” by Makoto Shinkai has been published in Persian by Peydayesh.

Parastu Purgilani is the translator of the novel first published in 2019.

Longing to escape his island home, a boy named Hodaka runs away during his first summer of high school to find a new life in Tokyo.

As rain falls for days on end and Hodaka struggles to adjust, he meets a girl named Hina who holds a mysterious power: With

Front cover of the Persian edition of Makoto Shinkai’s novel “Weathering With You”.

a single prayer, she can part the clouds and bring back the sun.

But her power comes at a price, and as the weather spirals further and further out of control, they must choose what future they truly want for themselves.

Written concurrently with the production of the 2019 film “Weathering With You”, this novel comes straight from director Makoto Shinkai.

The Japanese animated romantic fantasy film was produced by CoMix Wave Films

and distributed by Toho.

Shinkai began his career as a video game animator with Nihon Falcom in 1996, and gained recognition as a filmmaker with the release of the original video animation (OVA) “She and Her Cat” in 1999.

Beginning his longstanding association with CoMix Wave Films, Shinkai then released the science-fiction OVA “Voices of a Distant Star” in 2002, and followed this with his debut feature film “The Place Promised in Our Early Days” in 2004.

A Love Poem for 16-Year-Olds

An interview with Saeideh Sadat Akbari

The book “A Love Poem for 16-Year-Olds” is about Raziye Keshavarz, who was only 16 years old and was martyred in an explosion in Hosseiniye Shahada on May 10, 2007.

*** What was it like writing a book about a girl in the same age group as you?**

At the time of Raziye Keshavarz’s martyrdom, I was about 20 years old, whereas she was 16 years old, and when I decided to write about her, I was close to 27 years old. After collecting relevant materials, interviewing her family and friends, I started writing the book.

*** Did you get a chance to see Miss. Keshavarz during her lifetime?**

Unfortunately; No.

*** What was her most important feature in your opinion?**

The most important thing I noticed about her was her performance, that is, she quickly

planned to achieve her goals once she learned a moral or spiritual point. Another interesting aspect of her life was her deep love for Imam Mahdi.

*** What was the response to your book?**

Since the Coronavirus was in full swing during the publication of the book, the conditions were not normal, and therefore the book was not introduced as should be, and so the launch program was not held. I believe, and Mr. Khalili, the head of Shahid Kazemi Publishing House agrees, that this book is well received for all these reasons, despite all the tough situations.

*** What was your reaction to the arrest of the leader of the terrorist group Tonder, who caused the explosion in Shahada?**

The equipment of martyrs, mines, mortars, and guns were kept at the end of Hosseiniyeh in an exhibition called “Martyrs’ Ascension.” As a result, Shiraz and the whole country

were under the impression that this disaster had been caused by things in the exhibition. So, when the perpetrators of the incident were arrested after a few months, it was proved that the small exhibition was not the cause of the explosion.

Now that the leader of this terrorist group has been found, we are really happy that after 12 years, the main person responsible for this incident was arrested.