

# NPT Withdrawal; Iran's New Option

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## Cracks appear among anti-Russia alliance

TEHRAN- Germany's refusal to transfer its advanced Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine has been met with criticism by NATO members.

Nearly a year into the Ukraine conflict, public divisions have appeared among the West over the war and support for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian military has said it needs a few hundred of Western-made battle tanks.

Berlin is under heavy pressure by the U.S. establishment to authorise the delivery of its most advanced tanks to Kyiv. This is while Washington itself has refused to announce the delivery of its own U.S. Abrams tanks.

German government officials have linked their country's own decision to send Leopard tanks with Washington taking the lead first.

In essence, Berlin has indicated it is waiting for Washington to make the first move. Germany's new Defence Minister Boris Pistorius says no decision had yet been made by his government.

"There are good reasons for the delivery, and there are good reasons against it ... all the pros and cons have to be weighed very carefully, and that assessment is explicitly shared by many allies," Pistorius argued. ► Page 5

## OIC condemns burning of Holy Quran in Stockholm

TEHRAN- Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on Sunday strongly denounced the far-right activists' heinous crime of burning the holy Quran in Stockholm, Sweden.

The OIC secretary general cautioned that this provocative conduct, which far-right extremists have undertaken repeatedly, targets Muslims, degrades their fundamental values, and serves as yet another illustration of the terrible level that Islamophobia, bigotry, intolerance, and xenophobia have reached.

The OIC chief called on the Swedish authorities to take legal action against those responsible for this hate crime.

He urged intensified worldwide efforts to stop similar crimes from happening again and called for cooperation in the fight against Islamophobia. ► Page 2

## Rare opportunity for Iran to play world handball giants

TEHRAN - Iran handball team suffered three heavy losses against Spain, Slovenia and France in the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship but this is a rare and good opportunity for the Team to play well-known handball teams.

Iran managed to beat Chile in their opening Group A match and qualified for the main round instead of playing in the President Cup.

Now the team have a chance to play the world giants. Iran lost to 2020 Olympics champions France Friday night but they showed a better performance than they did against Slovenia.

Veselin Vujovic's team will also play hosts Poland in the competition and these matches can consider as warm-ups for the future.

Goalkeeper Mohammad Siavoshi and players Mojtaba Heydarpour, Afshin Sadeghi, Pouya Norouzinejad and Ali Kouhzad have stolen the show in the competition.

It's a great opportunity for Iran handball to continue its development in Asia, as the country's men and women teams have made a splash in the recent years.



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## Parliament holds closed session to discuss EP resolution on IRGC

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TEHRAN - Iran's Parliament held a closed session on Sunday morning to discuss the recent resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The session was attended by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and IRGC chief commander General Hossein Salami.

Alireza Salimi, a member of the Parliament's presiding board, offered some details about the session. "In this meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps made statements and it was emphasized that if Europe commits an unforgivable mistake, Iran will take similar countermeasures," Salimi told Tasnim.

He added, "According to the constitution, the IRGC is an official institution of Iran, and if this institution is declared a terrorist organization by European countries, Iran will also declare all European military institutions as terrorists. And from now on, none of the European military institutions in the region will be safe, and even their military advisors will not feel safe in their embassies." ► Page 3

## Tehran, Harare set to expand economic ties

TEHRAN - Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin met with Zimbabwe's Minister of Industry and Commerce Sekai Nzenza in Tehran on Sunday, during which the two sides stressed the expansion of economic ties.

As reported by the portal of Iran's Industry Ministry, in this meeting Nzenza called on Iran's

food, pharmaceutical, and automotive companies to enter Zimbabwe's markets.

The officials emphasized the development of cooperation in various economic sectors and stressed the need for creating a road map for the expansion of mutual trade and commercial relations.



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### Fajr Intl. Theater Festival pays tribute to actor Ali Soleimani

Ali Soleimani's widow and daughter accept a posthumous award given to the stage and screen actor during the opening ceremony of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival at Vahdat Hall in Tehran on January 21, 2023. Soleimani, who played roles in acclaimed productions such as Asghar Farhadi's TV series "Story of a City" and Bahram Beizai's movie "Killing Mad Dogs", died from COVID-19 in August 2021. He was 51.

## Visit Firuzabad, once politico-cultural capital of Sassanids

TEHRAN - Firuzabad, formerly known as Gur, was once a politico-cultural capital of the Sassanid Empire (224-651).

Firuzabad was established by one of the Sassanid kings, Ardashir Babakan. The city was significant at the time because it was one of the Sassanid Empire's strategic cities.

An approximate 3579 km2 is the size of Firuzabad, which is situated south of Shiraz.

Sassanid art and architecture enthusiasts flock to Firuzabad every year because the city is home to numerous relics from the era. It is a popular Iranian tourist destination.

It was a key region for the government in the Achaemenid Empire. But Firuzabad found a special place in the area and rose to become the capital during the rule of Ardashir Babakan.

Stating that the development of trade with African countries, especially Zimbabwe, is one of the priorities of the Iranian government, Fatemi-Amin said: "Unfortunately, the volume of our trade with Zimbabwe has decreased in recent years, and by holding such meetings we hope to witness the development of trade relations between the two countries." ► Page 4

## Iran, Tajikistan sign agreement on pharmaceutical co-op

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding here on Sunday to expand cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals.

The agreement was inked in the presence of the Iranian deputy science minister for international affairs Mohammad-Hossein Nicknam and the Tajik ambassador to Iran Nizomiddin Zohidi, IRNA reported.

The Tajik delegation paid several visits and held negotiations with officials in the Food and Drug Administration, which led to a memorandum of understanding that was signed, Nicknam said.

Tajikistan is one of the countries that has always been a priority for the Islamic Republic of Iran because both countries have a lot in common culturally, historically, and socially, he highlighted. ► Page 7

### Palace of Ardashir Babakan

The Palace of Ardashir Babakan is unique among Iranian structures because it is situated on a square-shaped platform.

Most historical Iranian monuments have a circular base to their architecture. Meanwhile, the use of a square model in the construction of palaces became popular among Iranian architects in the Sassanid era. ► Page 6

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## Tehran Papers

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

## Issuing a statement not an answer to the enemy

A political current in Iran tried and is still trying to categorize Western countries into two groups regarding confrontation with the Islamic Revolution. One is the United States of America, which is an enemy of Iran; and secondly Europe, which, although it has a dispute with Iran, can reach an agreement with it and can even use it against America. ► Page 2

## Operational stage of Gen. Soleimani satellite project launched

TEHRAN- The Iranian Space Agency has kick-started the operational phase of the country's first satellite system project, named after anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, the Agency's director Hassan Salarieh announced on Sunday.

Salarieh broke the story on the Agency's official website while detailing about the most recent implementation status of the General Soleimani project, which is a part of Iran's continuing 10-year space program.

"Based on the 10-year space program and in order to provide services to people, government institutions, and organizations as well as to provide services to private sector companies, the Iranian Space Agency has been tasked with placing ► Page 2

## Serbia first lady Tamara Vucic visits Iran national library

TEHRAN - Tamara Vucic, the wife of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, visited the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) on Saturday.

She was in Tehran to attend the First International Congress for Women of Influence organized last Friday, the NLAI announced.

Following her extended visit to different sections of the library, Vucic granted the library a collection of 32 books on Serbia, which were showcased in a special section.

In a meeting with NLAI director Alireza Mokhtarpor, she said, "This section features episodes in the history and culture of Serbia."

Vucic said that she has been surprised by seeing a unique, tiny copy of the Holy Quran being preserved at the library, and added, "According to Islamic teachings, God has conveyed His messages to people by books and seeing the holy book gave me a great pleasure."

"Today, people often satisfy their curiosity by searching on the Internet, but they never can find peace and serenity in that space. We should seek peace and tranquility in the world and we can search for the topics at libraries," she asserted. ► Page 8



## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Issuing a statement not an answer to the enemy

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

from page 1 ► But the recent action of the European Parliament against the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) broke that mentality. Nevertheless, some political and media circles in Iran still accuse the Islamic Republic system of leading Europe to take position against Iran with mismanagement.

Regarding the European Parliament's action on IRGC, there are some points:

1- Europe has clearly linked its resolution against the IRGC to the defeat of the riots in Iran and has included it in the text of the resolution.

2- The European Parliament has committed a "strategic and stupid mistake" by declaring the IRGC as a terrorist organization.

3. After the failure of the unrest project in Iran, the West will implement a series of measures against Iran. Therefore, we should show Western countries practically, not by issuing a statement, that if they take action against Iran, their costs will be much higher than Iran's.

**Javan: Iran will win the game Europe has started**

In an article quoting Iran's former ambassador to Italy regarding the European Parliament's move in designating the IRGC as terrorist, Javan writes the European Union will definitely lose if it confirms the resolution by the EU Parliament. This will also lead to a deadlock in political relations between the two sides.

"The resolution passed by the European Parliament against the IRGC is a non-binding one because the European Parliament is not in a position to pass such a resolution and it is more of a show off and a political maneuver," Abolfazl Zohrehvand said.

The former diplomat also said the European Parliament was only looking for "political exploitation" in line with the riot project in Iran. Moreover, Zohrehvand says, the ratification is facing a problem from a legal point of view.

"Following the path will intensify the challenge with Iran, and Europe does not seek to create a challenge, because it will not produce a result and will completely lock Europe's relations with Iran, and at least some European politicians are aware of the dangers," the newspaper quoted the former diplomat as saying.

Zohrehvand said Europeans need relationship with Iran even "for their own presence in the region" because Iran is not an isolated country and Europe acknowledges the role of Iran as a regional and even global power.

The former ambassador said Europeans themselves are well aware that "wars are intended to break deadlock in diplomacy," warning that they will bring diplomacy to a deadlock if they endorse the ratification by the European parliament.

**Resalat: Sunak and enigma of JCPOA**

British officials claim that after the execution of Alireza Akbari, an Iranian-British national, they intend to review their approach to the nuclear

agreement with Iran.

In practice, the Resalat newspaper said, it is for a long time that London has abandoned the nuclear agreement with Iran! Rishi Sunak has a negative and deterrence view of the nuclear agreement. Like former US President Donald Trump, he is trying to include more restrictive clauses in the nuclear agreement. Therefore, the revival of the nuclear agreement is never desirable for the new British prime minister.

Liam Fox, the former defense secretary and a Sunak ally, recently admitted that the new British prime minister will take a tougher stance toward the deal than Johnson.

In such a situation, the new British government may take some actions against the nuclear agreement for some reasons. Of course, in this regard, the British authorities have consulted with the White House officials and will continue to do so.

Some evidence shows that Sunak intends to follow the same failed path of Trump toward Iran. Sunak believes that the agreement will not stop Iran's nuclear program but only delays it. In any case, the new British prime minister, who does not have a high-profile standing in London, is against the 2015 agreement, and it should be noted that the nuclear agreement is an unfavorable thing for him.

**Khorasan: Europe's action against Iran will harm everyone**

The action of the European Parliament against the IRGC is useless because if such an action was supposed to have an effect, Trump's sanctions on the IRGC would have been effective, Khorasan writes.

The action by the Trump administration some years ago was also criticized by Europe and later by American Democratic leaders, the publication said.

If the European Union takes action against the IRGC, what should Iran's reaction be? And if the resolution is finalized in the Council of Europe, what measures can Iran take in response?

The daily writes: Tehran's reaction will be proportionate and effective at the same time. In recent days, various guesses have been made of Iran's response, ranging from withdrawing from the NPT and expelling IAEA's inspectors to opening the way for the transit of narcotics to Europe, etc.

The armies of the countries members to the EU that endorse such a resolution will be declared terrorist.

Although the Europeans will suffer from the tension in the region, Iran and other countries in the region will also suffer.

While recommending Europe to abandon such a dangerous game, the newspaper says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must, through consultations with the countries of the region and beyond, reduce the dangers of such actions and make it clear that everyone will fall into the ditch if Europe adopts such a reckless decision.

TEHRAN- Several Iranian institutes and authorities have strongly opposed an approval by the European Parliament in designating the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

The Iranian intelligence minister harshly criticized the European Parliament's decision, noting that Iran has the right to respond in kind to any menace to its national security.

Esmaeli Khatib, in a statement issued on Sunday, lambasted the unwise move by the European Parliament, calling it as a "worthless, hasty, and ill-advised" decision.

He also underlined the Intelligence Ministry's full support for the IRGC.

Khatib praised the IRGC as a great and well-liked part of Iran's military that has fought terrorism, asserting that Iran has inherent right to retaliate against any conduct that undermines the Islamic Republic's national security.

The intelligence chief also pointed out that the Western governments have turned to such meaningless symbolic measures to give the failed plans to incite riots and chaos in the country.

According to Khatib, the European bloc has become a puppet of U.S. state-sponsored terrorism, the Zionist regime, and repulsive anti-Iran organizations.

He further warned that Western interference against Iran and said their regional plans will end in complete fiasco.

**"Europe incapable of tainting image of IRGC"**

The Islamic Awakening World Assembly has also emphasized that Europeans must understand they cannot damage the reputation of the IRGC and other branches of the Iranian armed forces.

In a statement released on Sunday, the assembly noted that since the IRGC is one of the steadfast

## Iranian officials take firm stance against EU Parliament decision

*Intelligence chief calls terrorist designation against IRGC 'worthless, hasty, and ill-advised'*



pillars defending the Islamic Revolution and Iranian borders, people will support it wholeheartedly.

The statement stressed that the enemies of Iran are once again using media hype to attack the Islamic establishment, and that the U.S. and its European allies have infringed the rights of the Iranian people by imposing harsh sanctions and engaging in economic terrorism against them.

The statement continued, "The Iranians have overcome all conspiracies due to their vigilance and listening to the directives of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. The American and European enemies have made all-out efforts to isolate the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to pursue their own con-

ceited policies."

The statement added that the IRGC, under the command of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani, stood up to Daesh, which was supported by the U.S., the Zionist regime, and some European states. The sacrifices made by the IRGC members enabled the Islamic country as well as other countries in the region and the world to rid themselves of the threat of the Daesh terrorism.

The statement stressed that the aggressive behaviors are unequivocally rejected, adding they will fall short of their goals because the Iranian people will uphold the Islamic Republic as a sacred system.

**"EU is the main loser over its decision"**

In response to the European Parliament's resolution, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi also said on Saturday that the EU will surely be the primary loser.

The decision is a sign of the decline in the European politics, rationality, and realism, Vahidi asserted.

The minister was of the opinion that some individuals who have been involved in terrorist and anti-human activities both in Iran and abroad have influenced European nations to take a position in accordance with machinations triggered by the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Vahidi said that the European bloc has suffered a devastating blow as a result of Europe's choice.

The minister continued by saying that ignoring the IRGC's apparent efforts to battle Takfiri terrorist groups will only serve to strengthen such organizations.

**Heads of govt. branches slam anti-IRGC action as hybrid war**

In a trilateral meeting on Saturday night, President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei lambasted the European Parliament's hostile action against the IRGC.

They said the move is another action in the hybrid war against the Iranian people and the Islamic Republic.

The heads of the three branches of government commended the IRGC as a part of Iran's military might that has provided vital services in safeguarding the Islamic Republic for more than 40 years, pointing to the failure of the enemy's media, psychological, and economic campaign against Iran.

They also considered strategies for close coordination and collaboration across all entities in order to realize Iran's development goals.

## OIC condemns burning of Holy Quran in Stockholm

from page 1 ► The condemnation came after right-wing leader Rasmus Paludan received permission from his country's government to burn the sacred Muslim book in front of the Turkish embassy in Stockholm on Saturday. The notorious racist was protected by the police while committing the blasphemous act.

**Iran denounces Sweden's desecration of Quran**

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, also said on Saturday that some European nations have allowed extremist organizations to incite hostility towards Islamic principles and sanctuaries because of false accusations.

Despite the European human rights rhetoric, he pointed out that these countries are enshrining anti-Islamism and Islamophobia in their cultures.

Such actions have no bearing on the freedom of speech or opinion, he said.

The spokesman also remarked that the Muslim people want the Swedish government to stop future instances of such anti-Islamic conduct and to hold those responsible accountable.

**Regional countries decry the blasphemous move**

Several countries, including Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan, also expressed outrage over the violation of the Muslims' religious book, Press TV reported.

Jordan said the conduct "fuels hatred". Jordan underscored the necessity to spread the culture of peace and acceptance. It added "condemning extremism is a collective responsibility."

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah said the act "provokes Muslims throughout the world and hurts their feelings."

Egypt also publicly denounced the deplorable conduct that instigates strong emotions in hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide.



Egypt called for "upholding the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and preventing offense to all religions and their sanctities through such extremist practices that contradict the values of respect for religion."

The United Arab Emirates said the sacrilegious act contravenes "human and moral values and principles."

Qatar also criticized the Swedish government for allowing the holy book to be burned and urged the world community to uphold its obligations to reject bigotry and violence.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying, "We condemn in the strongest terms the heinous attack on our holy book, the Quran, in Sweden today (21 January), despite our repeated warnings before."

Calling the act "an outright hate crime," the ministry said, "Permitting this anti-Islam act, which targets Muslims and insults our sacred values, under the guise of freedom of expression is completely unacceptable."

"This despicable act is yet another example of the alarming level that Islamophobia and, racist and discriminatory movements have reached in Europe."

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said, "This stupid and

offensive Islamophobic conduct insults the religious sensitivities of over 1.5 billion Muslims throughout the world."

Such actions are "not covered under any legitimate expression of the right to freedom of expression or opinion, which carries responsibilities under international human rights law, such as the obligation not to carry out hate speech and incite people to violence."

"Pakistan's concerns are being conveyed to the authorities in Sweden. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and the Muslims worldwide and take steps to prevent Islamophobic acts," the statement added.

Furthermore, Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah al-Hajraf censured the Swedish authorities, saying the move would "inflame and provoke the feelings of Muslims around the world."

In an official statement, Hajraf affirmed the bloc's firm conviction in the importance of spreading the "values of dialogue, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, and rejecting hatred and extremism," calling on the international community to assume responsibility to stop such unacceptable acts.

In addition, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas denounced the provocative conduct and urged the international community to hold those responsible accountable in a statement.

"This act is a provocation to the feelings of all Muslims, and a blatant aggression against their faith," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said, adding that the extremist behavior would "spread hatred and incite violence and create a fertile environment for extremism."

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement also said in a statement that the "criminal act comes in the context of a long series of disgraceful insults to Muslim sanctities."

## Operational stage of Gen. Soleimani satellite project launched

from page 1 ► a telecommunication satellite system in the Earth's orbit," Salarieh stated.

"Implementation of the Martyr Soleimani Project is of tremendous importance because of the successes in the manufacture of satellite series and their network development," he underlined.

"It is regarded to be the first satellite system project of our country," he continued.

He stated that the Space Agency had long before initiated the project's operational plan and formalized the executive program of a narrowband telecommunication system with restricted service, even before the country's 10-year space program was completed.

The execution phase of the Martyr Soleimani Project formally began less than a month after the 10-year space program's approval, according to Salarieh. "This is one of the program's most significant components."

Salarieh praised the Agency's efforts to create small satellites, noting, "It is axiomatic that, upon success in this phase, the route will be built to com-



plete and develop satellite systems and provide additional services in the subsequent steps."

In 2009, Iran launched its first satellite, Omid, then in 2011, Rasad was placed into orbit.

The Islamic Republic successfully launched Navid, its third homegrown satellite, into orbit in 2012.

Iran declared the successful launch of its first military satellite into orbit in April 2020. It also sent a second military satellite into orbit in March 2022.

## The West's media war on Iran doomed to die, official says

TEHRAN- The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has criticized the Western media for applying different standards while reporting on the violence in the West and the rallies that fizzled out in Iran, highlighting how the hybrid and cognitive warfare against Iran is bound to fail.

"Demonstrations, riots, and acts of violence in Tel Aviv, London, and Paris!" Nasser Kanaani said on his Twitter account on Sunday.

"But their media speak about protests in Iran, which dissipated over a month ago despite all Western efforts to spark, fuel, and maintain them," he added.

Kanaani asserted that "the West's continuous hybrid and cognitive assault against Iran is the culmination of their military, economic, political, and psychological campaign, and it is destined to fail just like the past."

Certain cities in Iran were the scene

of riot acts following the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody in mid-September. The protest over the sudden death which were peaceful at the beginning quickly turned violent under the propaganda war launched by certain Western officials and incitement by media outlets such as Iran International, BBC Persian, VOA, etc.

In remarks in November 2022, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said, "The

events that took place these past few weeks were not just street riots."

The Leader was pointing to the part played by the foes in the riots in the country.

"They had intricate storylines. The enemy started using hybrid warfare. The enemy, which included the U.S., the Zionist regime, certain sneaky and evil European countries, and other organizations, appeared on the scene well equipped," the Leader remarked.



# NPT withdrawal; Iran’s new option

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – With the European Union making deliberations on whether to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, Iran appears to be mulling its response options, including a withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iranian Parliament had a busy day on Sunday, with a lineup of high-level Iranian officials taking part in closed sessions to discuss the European Parliament’s resolution on the IRGC, which called on the European Council to list the IRGC and its affiliates as a terrorist group.

IRGC chief commander General Hossein Salami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian jointly attended a closed session dedicated to discussing the European move. Also, the Iranian parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy also held specialized sessions on Saturday and Sunday to review the matter.

After the Sunday closed session, Amir Abdollahian made it clear that Iran is mulling a range of options, including the



strategically important possibility of withdrawing from the NPT.

Speaking after Sunday’s closed session, Amir Abdollahian did not rule out Iran’s withdrawal from the NPT. “Every possibility is probable,” he said in remarks to ICANA. He was responding to a question on whether Iran will quit the NPT if the EU puts the IRGC on its terrorism list.

This is the first time a high-level Iranian official cites NPT withdrawal as a possible response to the EU listing of the IRGC, which will have deep repercussions for the already stalled talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action (JCPOA).

In addition to the NPT option, Iran is also mulling other options. Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the parliamentary committee, said Sunday that the committee has prepared a three-point response in case the EU pressed ahead with the IRGC designation.

He said the Committee held two extraordinary meetings on the IRGC designation on Saturday and Sunday to brainstorm a response to the EU.

“We have also prepared a plan. And to reach this plan, we invited all people with opinions and ideas to the parliament. The outcome of these meetings was a 3-point plan, which will probably

be announced in today’s public meeting of the parliament,” Amouei told the parliament news agency ICANA.

He added, “The subject of this plan is a countermeasure that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is obliged to implement. If the European side includes the authorities or institutions of the country, including the institutions mentioned in the constitution, such as the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps or Basij Mustazafin, in the list of terrorist organizations of the European Union, there will be a reciprocal and corresponding reaction.”

Amouei continued, “In the resolution of the European Parliament, it has been seen that some people, officials and natural and legal entities are included in the list of sanctions and some have been included in the list of terrorist organizations. Therefore, in our planned plan, in the event of any action from the other side, we obliged the government to prepare a list to designate officials and individuals as terrorists or subject them to financial sanctions or prohibit their entry into Iran.”

## Parliament holds closed session to discuss EP resolution on IRGC

Frome Page 1 ▶ He continued, “The Europeans have sent messages that they do not intend to take such action and requested Iran not to take similar countermeasures. Americans have also sent messages to Iran and requested negotiations.”

After the session, the Iranian foreign minister confirmed that Iran is mulling countermeasures against Europe.

“Today I attended the closed meeting of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In the presence of General Salami, the representatives appreciated the efforts of this sovereign body to maintain national security. In a countermeasure, the parliament is trying to put elements of the army of European countries on the terrorist list. The European Parliament shot itself in the foot. The answer is reciprocal,” Amir Abdollahian said on Twitter.

Earlier, he conveyed this message to the foreign policy chief of the European Union, Josep Borrell. In his phone conversation with Borrell on Thursday, Amir Abdollahian strongly criticized the European Parliament’s emotional approach and described the behavior as uncalculated and wrong, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

“Today, we unfortunately saw the European Parliament approve the draft of an emotional, harsh and unprofessional resolution which runs counter to political rationality and civility,” the Iranian foreign minister said.

“We have repeatedly said that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is an official and sovereign institution, which has played and continues to play a vital and important role in providing security to Iran and the region, especially in the fight against terrorism,” he added.

Amir Abdollahian said, “The move by the European Parliament in designating an institution that builds security as ‘terrorist’ is a shot in Europe’s own foot.”

The Iranian foreign minister spoke of a legal and firm response on the part of Iran’s Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), warning the European Parliament to mull over the negative repercussions of its emotional behavior and focus instead on the path of diplomacy, constructive interaction, and rationality.

“In the world of diplomacy, it is necessary to respect mutual security and place promotion of mutual trust on agenda instead of resorting to a language of threats and unfriendly measures. In any case, there will be a reaction and response,” he said.

Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, offered further details about deliberations in the parliament regarding Iran’s response to the EU.

He said the Committee held two extraordinary meetings on the IRGC designation on Saturday and Sunday to brainstorm a response to the EU.

“In yesterday’s session, the general plan of the response of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to the action of the European Parliament was reviewed and evaluated,” he told the Parliament’s news agency ICANA.

He said the Committee had prepared a statement that was to be read at a later time.

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this plan, we invited all people with opinions and ideas in the parliament. The outcome of these meetings was a 3-point plan, which will probably be announced in today’s public meeting of the parliament,” Amouei said.

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Amouei continued, “In the resolution of the European Parliament, it has been seen that some people, officials and natural and legal entities are included in the list of sanctions and some have been included in the list of terrorist organizations. Therefore, in our planned plan, in the event of any action from the other side, we obliged the government to prepare a list to designate officials and individuals as terrorists or subject them to financial sanctions or prohibit their entry into Iran.”

The lawmaker said, “On the other hand, we are looking to establish a mechanism in the country for cases of human rights violations. Actions against international law, including killing and genocide, and cases in which Europeans had a history, should be registered and prosecuted in international authorities. These cases are also foreseen in this plan.”

Iran is also mulling a withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in case the EU designated the IRGC as a terrorist group, according to the Iranian foreign minister. Speaking after Sunday’s closed session, Amir Abdollahian did not rule out Iran’s withdrawal from the NPT. “Every possibility is probable,” Amir Abdollahian said in remarks to ICANA. He was responding to a question on whether Iran will quit the NPT if the EU puts the IRGC on its terrorism list.

### Conspiracy against IRGC doomed to fail: Raisi

President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi also attended a session of the parliament on Sunday. He went to the parliament to defend the budget bill of the Iranian calendar year 1402.

He referred to the recent action of the European Parliament against the IRGC at the beginning of his speech.

“This action is a reaction against the insight and

vigilance of the Iranian nation in thwarting the enemy’s recent conspiracy and sedition to bring chaos to Iran,” Raisi said, according to a readout released by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Stating that no other military force in the world has fought terrorism like the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, the President added, “Both the military forces and the high political officials of the countries of the region and even the world recognize the important and decisive role of the IRGC, the Quds Force and General Qassem Soleimani in the fight against terrorism in the region”.

President Raisi expressed gratitude to all IRGC forces for decisively confronting the terrorists and stated, “The new brutal conspiracy of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution against our powerful Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, which is a reaction to the revolutionary movement of our forces in the fight against terrorism, as well as a reaction to the vigilance and insight of the people of Islamic Iran is, as always, doomed to failure”.

Also, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf paid a visit to the chief headquarters of the IRGC in the early hours of Saturday and met with its chief commander General Hossein Salami.

In the meeting, Qalibaf reacted to the European Parliament’s recent resolution on Iran which called for listing the IRGC as a terrorist group. The resolution was adopted with an overwhelming majority and called on the European Council to list the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps as a terrorist group.

“They [MEPs] also call on the Council and the member states to add the IRGC and its subsidiary forces, including the paramilitary Basij militia and the Quds Force, to the EU terrorist list. Any country in which the IRGC deploys military, economic, or informational operations should sever and outlaw ties with this agency,” the European Parliament said in a press release after the adoption of the Resolution.

The move, though unbinding, elicited huge criticism from Iran. Officials, lawmakers, senior clerics, military officials, and media personalities all fiercely reacted to the possibility of the EU designating the IRGC. All of them have said that Iran will strongly react to the move. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf said Friday that Iran will “certainly” deal with the Europeans “in a different way.”

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

# IRAN IN FOCUS

JANUARY 23, 2023

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### CAFA tournament good chance to test players: coach

TEHRAN – Iran’s women futsal team coach Forouzan Soleymani says that 2023 CAFA Women’s Futsal Championship is a good competition to test her players.

Iran are scheduled to face Kyrgyzstan on Jan. 27 in their opener.

Team Melli will also play Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on Jan. 28 and 30, respectively.

“We will do our best to get good results in CAFA. The team will participate in the competition with a mixture of young talents and experienced players,” Soleymani said.

“We have short time to prepare the team for the tournament but will do our best,” she added.

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

“All teams are hard to beat and we know that Team Melli have a difficult task ahead. Uzbekistan are the main rival but Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are also strong,” Soleymani concluded.

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

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

### Beheshti takes silver at UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup

TEHRAN – Mohsen Beheshti Rad of Iran won a silver medal at the second UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup of the 2023 season.

South Korea’s Myungwook Yang won the gold medal and the bronze medal went to Mongolian climber Mandakhbayar Chuluunbaatar.

The 2023 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup was held in Champagny-en-Vanoise in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in south-eastern France.

The third and final event of the World Cup season will be held from the 26-28 January in Saas-Fee, Switzerland.

### Ex-Iran assistant coach Roger de Sa shortlisted to lead China

TEHRAN – Roger de Sa is mulling over a few coaching offers he has received since he came back from the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, where he worked as assistant coach of Iran.

De Sa was recruited by long-time friend and colleague Carlos Queiroz, who was head coach of the Iranian team, [sundayworld.co.za](http://sundayworld.co.za) reported.

De Sa’s stock has risen since he started working with Queiroz, and the former Orlando Pirates and Bidvest Wits coach has attracted interest from three national teams.

Roger de Sa had previously said he would resume negotiation with the Iran football federation from January.

### Uzbekistani handball goalkeeper Mamirova joins Foolad

TEHRAN – Iranian handball club Foolad Hormozgan completed the signing of Uzbekistani goalkeeper Tuoryim Mamirova.

The 20-year-old goalie arrived in Bandar Abbas Saturday night.

She will have to pass medical examination in the Iranian club.

Foolad Hormozgan sit fifth in the eight-team women’s handball league.

### Iranian athletes grab six medals in World Veteran Table Tennis Champions

TEHRAN – Iranian veteran players snatched six medals in World Veteran Table Tennis Championships 2023 held in Muscat, Oman.

In singles competitions, Iranian players received two gold and two bronze medals.

In doubles competitions, they grabbed a gold and a bronze medal.

The Iranian team attended the event with 32 players.

### Marcao leaves Wuhan to sign for Al Ahli

TEHRAN – Brazilian striker Marcao has left newly-crowned Chinese Super League champions Wuhan Three Towns and will join Saudi Arabia’s Al Ahli, the Jeddah-based club confirmed on social media.

Marcao scored 27 times in 26 games as Wuhan won the Chinese Super League title for the first time, with the Brazilian finishing the season as the top flight’s leading scorer.

The 28-year-old’s contract with Wuhan expired at the end of the campaign with his goals instrumental in the club’s climb out of China League One before the forward fired his team to the Chinese Super League title and qualification for the group phase of the 2023/24 AFC Champions League.

He joins an Al Ahli side who are currently in fourth place in the second division in Saudi Arabia following their relegation from the Saudi Pro League last year.

### Iran U-17 football team to compete at Belarus tournament

TEHRAN – Iran U-17 football team will participate at the international tournament “Development Cup” in Belarus.

The tournament will be held from Feb. 5 to 11 in Minsk.

Eight teams will take part in the tournament, namely Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, as well as Belarus U-16 and Russia U-16 teams.

The teams are divided into two groups. Iran is in Group B along with with Russia, Tajikistan and Belarus U-16.

Tajikistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Russia U-16 are in Group A.

#### Development Cup-2023 Match Schedule:

February 5 (Sunday)

Kazakhstan – Russia U-16

Russia – Tajikistan

Belarus U-16 – Iran

Belarus – Uzbekistan

February 7 (Tuesday)

Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan

Russia – Iran

Belarus U-16 – Tajikistan

Belarus – Russia U-16

February 9 (Thursday)

Russia U-16 – Uzbekistan

Tajikistan – Iran

Belarus U-16 – Russia

Belarus – Kazakhstan

February 11 (Saturday)

Fourth place of group “A” – Fourth place of group “B”

Third place of group “A” – Third place of group “B”

Second place of group “A” – Second place of group “B”

Winner of group “A” – Winner of group “B”

## Amir Abdollahian meets advisor to Syrian president

TEHRAN – In a meeting with Bouthaina Sha’aban, an advisor to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian described ties between the two countries as strategic and multi-faceted.

Amir Abdollahian also said the

relations continue to make progress in different spheres thanks to the resolve of the two countries’ top authorities.

Sha’aban was visiting Iran at the head of a delegation to take part in the first congress of the International Association of Women of Influence.

She described Iran-Syria ties as

excellent and stressed the need to pay attention to different fields of cooperation, including culture and women.

The Syrian official described the successful convening of the event as positive and praised the Islamic Republic’s initiative and its progress

in the field of women’s empowerment, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest developments in bilateral ties, the situation in the region, and cooperation among neighborly countries.



## MPs approve general outlines of national budget bill

TEHRAN - The Iranian parliament approved the general outlines of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21.

During an open session of Majlis (Iranian parliament) on Sunday, the national budget bill for the next year was put to a vote and 169 MPs out of

235 MPs who were present voted in favor of it and the generalities of the bill were approved.

Talfiaq Committee, a body consisting of MPs from different committees, which is established each year to study the national budget bill, approved the general policies of the bill for the next year on January 17.

## Manufacturing of washing machines increases 9%

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of washing machines in Iran has risen nine percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data indicate that 1.16 million washing machines have been manufactured in the

nine-month period of this year, while the figure was 1.061 million in the same time span of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by the ministry, 1,456 million washing machines were manufactured in the country during the past Iranian calendar year 1400, showing 20 percent growth year on year.

## Exports from mining sector exceeds \$9b

TEHRAN - Iran exported 35.5 million tons of minerals and mining products worth \$9.098 billion in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), IRIB reported, citing the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) data.

As reported, the nine-month export from the

mining sector rose five percent in terms of weight but dropped two percent in terms of value year on year.

Steel and steel products were the top exported commodities in this sector, followed by copper and its byproducts, aluminum and related items, as well as other downstream products.

## TEDPIX drops 4,600 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 4,652 points to 1.652 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 13.11 billion securities worth 81.669 trillion rials (about \$204 million) were traded at the TSE.

# Tehran, Harare set to expand economic ties

from page 1 ►The Zimbabwean minister, for her part, emphasized that the president of Zimbabwe is also interested in the development of trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: "We are also under sanctions and want to use the experiences of countries that experienced the same situation."

In this regard, Fatemi-Amin stated that the Islamic Republic is ready to transfer its experiences in dealing with sanctions and said: "Sanctions may cause problems at first, but in the end, it will make countries rely on their capabilities and fundamentally shape their economy."

Further in the meeting, the parties discussed the two



*Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin (R) and Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Sekai Nzenza*

countries' trade capacities and Nzenza called for the use of Iran's advanced technologies in the field of processing agricultural products, renewable energies, and also medicine and medical equipment.

Fatemi-Amin also announced Iran's readiness to cooperate in the mentioned fields and officially invited Zimbabwean investors to visit Iran to get familiar with the Iranian companies active in the field of renewable energies and food industries for joint cooperation.

"We also need Zimbabwean products such as cotton and gold and we can exchange these goods," the minister added.

## Iran's export to India rises 6% in 9 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export to India increased by six percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

IRICA data put Iran's worth of export to India at \$1.474 billion in the nine-month period of this year,

while the figure was \$1.397 billion in the same time span of the previous year.

As reported, petroleum products and fruits have been the major goods imported by India from Iran in the said months.

In late May 2022, Iranian ambassador to India said that Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand the bilateral trade.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express

Online, Ali Chegeni said, "We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and services including all of non-oil goods and to achieve this".

During the past two years, because of Covid restrictions, we pursue the issue via virtual dialogues and currently our officials are following the matter through the exchange of delegations, the envoy stated at the time.

## Over 50,000 tons of tomatoes produced in Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad per annum

TEHRAN- Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad province, in southwestern Iran, is one of the tomato production hubs of the country, and over 50,000 tons of tomatoes are produced in this province each year.

Tomatoes are grown every year in the farms of this province in spring and autumn.

In addition to meeting the needs of the province, the tomato harvest from Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad province farms is also exported to the whole country and even to neighboring countries.

In this year's fall crop, tomatoes were grown on about a thousand hectares of the province's farmlands.



Based on the data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Iran has been among the top exporters of agricultural products in the world in 2021.

As reported, all agricultural products in the country will be exported with a QR tracking code from the next Iranian calendar year (which begins on March 21).

# Comprehensive development in strategic contents paves the way to success in the bank: BMI head

TEHRAN- Abolfazl Najarzadeh, head of Bank Melli of Bank of Iran, stressed the importance of developments in the bank's strategic approaches and said that bank will achieve significant results when plans and six-strategic contents are implemented.

Najarzadeh who was making the remarks in a seminar about evaluating the nine-month performance of the bank's units during the current Iranian year (starting from March 21 2022), in the presence of bank's officials thanked those units which have been able to perform efficiently toward the fulfillment of the bank's goals since the start of this year.

Najarzadeh also pointed to the existing weaknesses and problems and announced bank's most important strategies and policies till the end of the year as well as the next year.

### Attention to strategic contents makes evolution possible

The head of the bank also said "we expect our colleagues across the country to promote bank's position among other banks by implementing the new strategic approaches, complying with the set instructions and respecting customers".

Najarzadeh emphasized the importance of goal setting and planning as the most important and fundamental pillars of the development and success, adding, with a change in approach from "staff to line", development would become possible.

### On the Road to Success

The newly assigned head of bank Melli continued to say that the weaknesses and strengths of the plans must be identified, and called for senior managers to monitor the performance of the bank's units next year by establishing a new framework based on the available strategies. He further asked the departments of the provincial branches to review and evaluate their performance based on the bank's strategies every season.

Najarzadeh indicated that bank's activities are based on Central Bank's policies and added that all the bank's goals and policies should be based on the bank's strategic framework.

### The development of E-banking is a necessity

The bank's official stressed on the fundamental implementing of the management of resources and expenses, attracting new resources, increasing capital, generating frozen assets, implementing comprehensive banking, creating digital transformation, developing international sector including international and foreign trade services and developing human capital in the bank.

Stating that Melli Bank should be a leader and pioneer in the banking network in technology and digital banking, Najarzadeh added the new banking products and technological tools should provide the ground for the superiority and distinction of BMI compared with other banks.

### Bank is responsible to create economic enterprises

Somewhere else in his remarks, Najarzadeh underscored that bank's duty is to develop economic enterprises not owning them and added that one of the bank's priorities in the current year is to exit the business ownership and selling and handing over its surplus and fixed assets.

Dr. Najarzadeh pointed to the ongoing competitive conditions for banks and the development of banking science and industry and emphasized that it is necessary for BMI to move towards comprehensive banking.

### Double efforts to increase market share

Najarzadeh emphasized that the increase in bank share in all banking system indicators is important and added that shortages and problems must be solved by continuous monitoring.

He again stressed the development of the international sector and foreign trade services as well as human capital.

The head of BMI highlighted the need for planning to provide proper service to customers and announced that "38 strategic plans have been drafted in BMI which pave the way for transformation."

### Customer satisfaction possible with the development of bank of entrepreneurs

Referring to the role played by bank of entrepreneurs (Kaargoshaei Bank) in providing micro services across the country, Najarzadeh added that the establishment and announcement of rules should be in line with improving the quality and the speed of services provided by bank of entrepreneurs.

Najarzadeh said that the root causes of the weakness and strength of the units should be identified as soon as possible and at end asked his colleagues to work hard to achieve bank's goals and policies based on the existing strategic plans.

The bank units' performances were reviewed during this seminar by deputy department for planning and transformation and their performance report was presented.

### Realization of the strategy contents is very necessary

Mohammad Shirijian, a board member and Vice President for Planning and Transformation of BMI, also extended his thanks to those units that have had a good performance during the 9 months of this year and emphasized the necessity of maximum efforts to achieve the six-content of the bank's strategy and long-term goals.

Shirijian said that a coherent road map for the bank's effective movement this year has been designed, and stressed that everyone should participate in the practicing strategic plans and implementing strategic contents to obtain new achievements.

He considered cutting losses and increasing market share as bank



units' performance evaluation indicators, and added that there would be a good progress in all sectors if bank's goals are materialized.

He explained the goals and strategies of the bank and discussed with managers about their issues and questions.

A working group was also formed with the presence of the head of the BMI, the chairman and the board members of the BMI during which the bank's senior managers raised the problems and related issues they faced from "staff to line" while the top officials provided them with the necessary solutions.

In this working group, customer-friendly attitude, managing and attracting resources, increasing market share, transparency, implementing a centralized system for extracting and calculating financial statements, implementing the government approvals for provinces, paying agricultural loans, implementing credit card management system, provision of micro-services in the form of loan, payment of housing loan, provision of undertaking method, revision of budgeting, development of international relations and better products were discussed and considered the main ways for the evolution of the bank.

During the conference, some of the managers of the branches presented a report on the performance of the subordinate units and continued to express and propose their views on the bank's issues.

The conference ended with introducing the departments of Khuzestan, Alborz and Zanjan branches as well as independent branches of Haj and Ziarat, Central and Securities and Exchange with the best performance over the past 9 months.





# Cracks appear among anti-Russia alliance

From page 1 ► Germany has also dismissed requests by its NATO allies, who have thousands of German-made tanks to send them to the warzone.

Poland, which does have the Leopard 2 tanks in its possession, has suggested it might send them to Ukraine without seeking Berlin's approval.

But analysts say this would complicate future military cooperation between the two sides.

Ukraine has been calling on NATO and the European Union to supply it with more advanced weapons, despite Russia's warning that this would prolong the war, the suffering of Ukrainians as well as represent a significantly new escalation.

Moscow has also warned NATO that any shipments of advanced weapons will be viewed as a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO members.

Berlin has so far dispatched military assistance to Kyiv, but the delivery of these tanks would represent a new escalation that Russia has been warning about.

If Germany sends its tanks first and nobody else does, this may be viewed by the Kremlin that Berlin is at war with Russia.

It would also make Germany appear as warmonger in this conflict.

This is something that the German government wants to avoid, especially amid Russian warnings of an escalation if battle tanks are dispatched.

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Duma – Russia's lower house of parliament – warned that the United States and NATO support for Ukraine is leading the world to a “terrible war”.

He added that “arguments that the nuclear powers have not previously used weapons of mass destruction in local conflicts are untenable. Because these states did not face a situation where there was a threat to the security of their citizens and the territorial integrity of the country.”

Last week, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who currently serves as deputy chairman of Russia's powerful security council, said in a social media post that “the defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war ... Nuclear powers have never lost major conflicts on which their fate depends,”

Ukrainian troops are already being trained on German soil, not by the German military advisors themselves but rather by the U.S. forces that are stationed in the country.

This is while the German public has already been among the worst hit as a consequence of the war.

The taps of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline that used to run directly from Russia to Germany before the war have already been mostly switched off as a result of Western sanctions on Moscow.

The German government also

does not want to send its tanks because of fears that the Kremlin will respond with further measures by cutting off future supplies of gas and oil.

Before the war, Germany was heavily dependent on Russian gas following decades of cooperation between the two sides. Europe as a whole relied on Moscow for 40 percent of its gas needs.

The ensuing fighting has seen an energy crisis in Europe that has spearheaded record inflation rates not seen in several decades.

Christian Molling, the deputy director at the German Council on Foreign Relations, told news media outlets that “careers have been built on the narrative that Germany is a peace-loving nation. The public mood is shifting and possibly at a tipping point, but it would be very hard to be the leader that drove to make Germany a leading player in European security.”

Surveys suggest that the German public support for Ukraine is less than in other Western countries. Polls also indicate that Germans are split on the question of sending the German-made battle tanks to the warzone.

Since World War 2, Germany has tried to portray itself as having a position of not taking sides in any wars, but that clearly ended in February last year, when Russia attacked Ukraine.

Critics say the German supply of chemical weapons to the for-

mer Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to use in his war against Iran is another case in point.

Despite the large-scale delivery of weapons and heavy sanctions, the Russian military is still on the offensive.

Eleven months into the Ukraine war, and with tens of billions of dollars worth of military assistance to Kyiv, alongside unprecedented sanctions on Russia, appears to have created skepticism in Berlin.

The timing is also key.

The Kremlin has slammed the United States for its refusal to engage in talks with a view to ending the conflict. That has perhaps made some in Europe think twice.

Divisions in the anti-Russia alliance have only grown more public in recent days. Earlier, Poland described Germany as “the least proactive country out of the group, to put it mildly.”

But the Germans look like they want a quick fix to end the war and not escalate it further on their doorsteps.

There were expectations that divisions will eventually appear among the U.S.-led NATO military alliance toward the Ukraine war.

The cracks in the anti-Russian bloc's unity have most certainly started to be made public following Germany's refusal to send dozens of Europe's most advanced tanks to the war.

The Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania (who are under NATO command) made a joint call to Germany to send its main battle tanks to Ukraine, putting further pressure on Berlin to move faster on aiding Kyiv in the war.

“We, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Foreign Ministers, call on Germany to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine now,” Estonia's Foreign Minister wrote on social media.

And Pistorius has denied any allegations that Germany is alone in blocking the delivery of tanks to Ukraine.

The United Kingdom says it is willing to send its Challenger 2 tanks and Poland says its ready to send their German made tanks.

There is certainly a major rift now among NATO , with members trading strong accusations.

The fact that Washington is refusing to send its own tanks speaks volumes.

How this latest scenario will unfold is the bigger question.

## Violent protest in downtown Atlanta over killing of activist

A protest turned violent in downtown Atlanta on Saturday night in the wake of the death of an environmental activist who was killed by authorities this week after officials said the 26-year-old shot a state trooper.

Masked activists dressed in all black threw rocks and lit fireworks in front of a skyscraper that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation, shattering large glass windows. They then lit a police cruiser on fire, smashed more windows and vandalized walls with anti-police graffiti as stunned tourists scattered.

The violent protesters were a subsection of hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered and marched up Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street to mourn the death of the protester, a nonbinary person who went by the name Tortuguita and used they/its pronouns.

Tortuguita was killed Wednesday as authorities cleared a small group of protesters from the site of a planned Atlanta-area public safety training center that activists have dubbed “Cop City.”

## Russian lawmaker warns of ‘global catastrophe’ if West gives Ukraine heavy arms

The head of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, warned on Sunday that the delivery of heavy weapons to Ukraine by Western countries would lead to “global catastrophe.”

“If Washington and NATO countries supply weapons that will be used to strike civilian cities and attempt to seize our territories, as they threaten, this will lead to retaliatory measures using more powerful weapons,” Vyacheslav Volodin said on Telegram.

Volodin urged members of the US Congress, in addition to lawmakers in Germany's Bundestag, the French National Assembly, and other European parliaments, to “realize their responsibility to humanity.”

The US recently vowed to support Ukraine if it launched an operation to retake the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014. Moscow also annexed four regions in eastern Ukraine last year after what the West denounced as “sham” referendums.

“With their decisions, Washington and Brussels

are leading the world to a terrible war: To a completely different military action than today, when strikes are carried out exclusively on the military and critical infrastructure used by the Kyiv regime,” he further noted.

He also said that politicians needed to understand that such decisions could end in “a global tragedy” that would destroy their countries, based on the “technological superiority of Russian weapons.”

Suggesting that Russia would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons in the conflict, Volodin claimed that the security of its people and its territorial integrity were under threat.

“Arguments that the nuclear powers have not previously used weapons of mass destruction in local conflicts are untenable. Because these states did not face a situation where there was a threat to the security of their citizens and the territorial integrity of the country,” he said.

## Protesters in Poland rap Warsaw’s involvement in Ukraine war, support for Kiev

Polish anti-war demonstrators have rallied in Warsaw against Poland's involvement in the Ukraine war and their government's support for Kiev.

Organized by the Polish patriotic organization “Compatriots – Comrades”, the protest took place in the capital, with demonstrators holding Polish flags and banners that read “Who wants Polish blood, get out!”, “Poland chooses peace!”, and “this is not our war”.

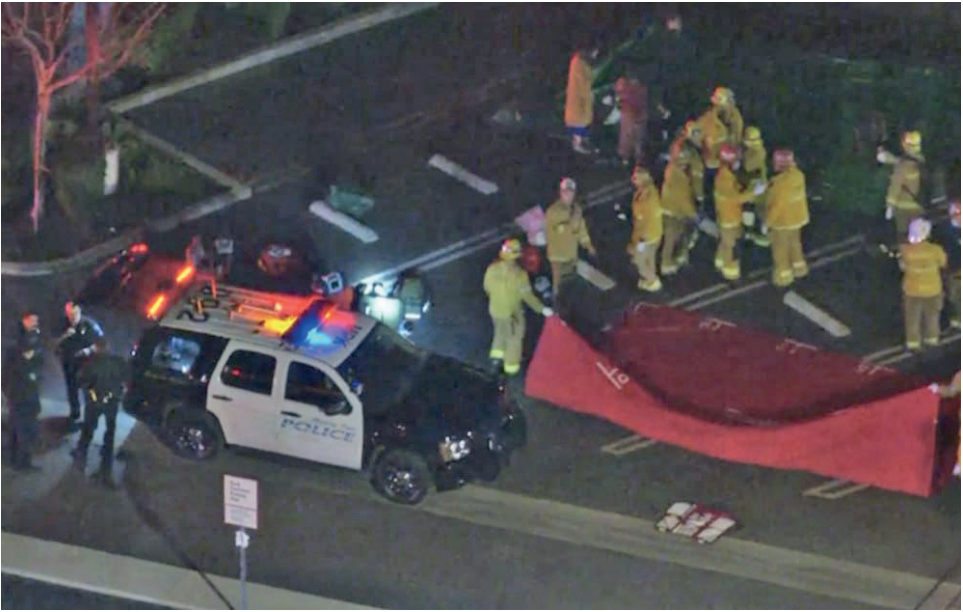
“It is in our interest – Poles – not to lose Polish blood. Not sending police, soldiers, firemen abroad into a war that could escalate into a global war,” said Marcin Osadowski, an organizer of the protest.

Officials in Warsaw claim that Poland is the world's second-biggest donor (after the US) in terms of military assistance to Ukraine. It supplies Ukraine with tanks, artillery, drones, and other weapons and ammunition.

Warsaw is also pressuring Germany to supply Ukraine with the German-made Leopard-2 battle tanks, as it has been a long unfulfilled demand from Ukraine to acquire the advanced tanks.

In recent months, European citizens' calls have been growing louder on the US and European countries to stop supporting Ukraine with military supplies. Moscow says the raft of military supplies to Kiev stretches the war even longer.

## 10 people killed, 10 injured in mass shooting in LA



Ten people were killed and at least 10 others were injured when a gunman opened fire at a ballroom dance studio in Monterey Park on Saturday night, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

The mass shooting, one of California's worst in recent memory, happened in the 100 block of West Garvey Avenue at around 10:22 p.m., sheriff's Capt. Andrew Meyer told reporters Sunday morning.

There was scant information on the suspect: Male and still at large. There is no known motive, nor a description of the shooter.

“When officers arrived on scene, they observed numerous individuals, patrons ... pouring out of the location, screaming. The officers made entry to the location and located additional victims,” Meyer said.

Firefighters pronounced 10 of the victims dead at the scene, Meyer said. At least 10 others were transported to numerous local hospitals, and their conditions range from stable to critical.

Meyer said investigators don't know whether the victims were targeted. He said it was too early to know whether the shooting was a hate crime. “We will look at every angle,” Meyer said. There was no description of the weapon used other than it was a firearm, Meyer said.

Meyer said he's aware of some kind of incident in the neighboring suburb of Alhambra, north of Monterey Park, “and we have investigators on scene trying to determine if there's a connection between these two incidents.”

## Europe on path of radicalism and struggle with diplomacy

By Mohsen Pakaein

TEHRAN – The anti-IRGC measure taken by the European Parliament shows the intensification of radicalism in Europe and the continent's distance from diplomacy.

Issuing the anti-Iranian resolution of the European Parliament in connection with the inclusion of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the list of terrorist institutions shows the intensification of radicalism in Europe and the continent's distance from diplomacy and international standards and shows a kind of chaos in this continent.

There is no doubt that all intellectuals in the world believe that sanctioning the official army of a country is against international standards and regulations, because official armies are responsible for the security of countries, guarding borders, dealing with enemies and fighting global threats such as terrorism. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, as an official army of Iran, is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in the region and this is completely undeniable. Even some European officials believe that if the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps did not fight terrorism, ISIS and Al-Qaeda would be active in European countries today and would have narrowed the field for them.

Although putting the IRGC's name on the list of terrorist groups was on the agenda of the European Parliament for a long time, it seems that the reason for this action at the current stage is related to the arrest of British spy Alireza Akbari. By paying huge sums of money, the British government hires this person and turns him into a professional spy,



and even grants him British citizenship to build trust. Now that this spy has been caught by the Iranian security forces and has confessed his mistakes, a serious blow has been inflicted on England and the European security system.

According to international regulations and standards, interference in the internal affairs of countries is prohibited, and the worst act of a country is to spy against a country with which it has official relations. The arrest of Alireza Akbari and his punishment was a symbol of Iran's independence and authority, and it dealt a heavy blow to England's reputation and aroused the opinion of the world and Europe against this country and its supporters such as France, Germany and America. Therefore, they have to divert the public opinion of the world to another issue with another action, and for this reason, they chose to put the name of IRGC on the list of terrorist groups. Naturally, this decision of the European Union is very ugly and without reasoning and logic and derived from the hostility of England and countries such as Germany, France and the United States against Iran.

This anti-Iranian action is condemned by all countries that adhere to international standards. Europe has always considered itself a supporter of international standards and regulations, and the issued resolution questioned Europe's international credibility and called it a “anti-standards” continent. On the other hand, considering that the IRGC is serious in the fight against terrorism and has sacrificed many martyrs in this way, including Lieutenant General Haj Qassem Soleimani, the European Parliament has placed itself in the ranks of the supporters of terrorism by issuing this resolution.

The action of the European Parliament in placing the Revolutionary Guards on the list of terrorist groups, if it is approved by the Council of Europe; Of course, the probability of that is weak, but it will definitely lead to Iran's countermeasure. Considering the geographical position of Iran and being next to the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, there is a possibility that countermeasures can make Europe regret.

Of course, it is likely that the Council of Europe will not act irrationally like the European Parliament and expose itself to insecurity and danger because the European Parliament's adherence to American policies and the Zionist lobby will be detrimental to Europe itself. Europe should know that if Iran includes all European military institutions in the list of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, it will naturally consider itself obligated to fight against them to eradicate terrorism.

(Source: Mehr News Agency)



## UNESCO-designated mosque invites sightseers to its rarely-seen nooks



TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, which resembles a museum of Iranian architecture, offers a special tour to take visitors to its rarely-seen sections.

With arrangements made with Isfahan Municipality, tours to visit unknown and lesser-seen places of this huge historical mosque are offered from January 21 to 27, a local tourism official said on Sunday.

Covering an area of 22,000 square meters, the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, also known as Atiq Mosque, dates nearly 1,300 years. In fact, it is one of the oldest mosques in Iran and the first mosque registered on the World Heritage list.

The Jameh Mosque of Isfahan has experienced many changes from the point of view of architecture and decorative arts related, therefore, in this huge and historical mosque, there are various parts that tourists haven't visited yet due to protection restrictions.

The mosque's core structure dates back to pre-Islamic Iran, according to archaeological excavations and historical records. It is said that the building was first built as a fire temple, and it had been used to practice religious rituals. This assumption was confirmed by the discovery of a column torus engraved with Sassanid motifs.

However, the remains from the Seljuk era (1037-1194), especially the key elements of the ground plan, the four iwans (porches), and the two domes are sufficient to illustrate the advances in mosque and dome architecture made at the time.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

## Clock Tower of Tabriz to turn into museum

The Clock Tower of Tabriz, which is one of the most significant historical monuments of the ancient Iranian city, will be turned into a cultural heritage museum.

Owned by Tabriz Municipality, the monument will undergo rounds of restoration before being repurposed into a touristic destination, a local official said on Saturday.

Locally called Borj-e Sa'at, the monument is located exactly in the heart of the city. Some say it is impossible to visit Tabriz and not see this symbolic building.

Sa'at means clock in Persian and Sa'at Tower is part of a building belonging to the city hall and main office of the municipal government of Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan.

The edifice is where historical maps of and photos of Tabriz, along with the Golden Key of Tabriz, are being kept.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became



the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital. It was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

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

## Restoration completed on holy shrine in southwest Iran



TEHRAN – A restoration project on the holy shrine of Imamzadeh Baba Ahmad in Andika, southwestern Khuzestan province has come to an end, Andika's tourism chief has said.

The project involved strengthening the

structure and repairing the damaged parts, Seyyed Ali Mousavi explained on Sunday.

The historical structure, which has been inscribed on the national heritage list, is one of the top tourist attractions of the region, the official added.

Andika is a small county in southwest Iran. There was a time when this land was known as Andiko, which means the land of wonderful mountains, in the native language.

The Bardi Qaleh in this region is one of the first settlements of the Lor tribe in the southwest of Iran, and the first signs of Persian architecture can be found in this ancient castle. The nomad route (Ilrah) of this part of the country passes through Andika.

**Saipa wheel manufacturer company intends to construction and commissioning Aluminum alloy wheel factory as a joint venture in khorramshahr, Iran. the companies active in this scope are invited to refer to this link: <https://b2n.ir/q03655> to receive document(RFP) and send their proposals to [commercial2@kswco.com](mailto:commercial2@kswco.com) by January30th. If you have question please contact Mr.Eftekharian: [email:commercial1@kswco.com](mailto:commercial1@kswco.com)**

# Visit Firuzabad, once politico-cultural capital of Sassanids

From Page 1 ► The palace that once belonged to Ardeshir Babakan is one of the most impressive features of ancient Firuzabad, which still exudes a sense of the Sassanid era. It served as his government's central office.

There are many corridors and iwans (porticos) throughout the structure that has 116 meters long and 55 meters wide. There are halls connected by iwans in both the eastern and western portions of this palace. The palace's triple domes are among its most notable features.

Ardeshir Palace is one of the most notable examples of Sassanid-era architecture, embellished with lovely stuccos and sturdy vaults. The distinction between the palace's official and residential areas is another intriguing aspect. As a result, there is a large hall adjacent to the administrative palace that was built to host meetings between the king and officials from the government.

The main courtyard and a lake are creating a beautiful view of the palace of Ardeshir at the end of the palace and its exterior. However, the lake is also visible from the palace's exterior.

**Qal'eh Dokhtar**



Qal'eh Dokhtar, which literally means the Maiden Castle, is another historical representation of Sassanid art and architecture.

In terms of Sassanid architecture, this castle, perched above the local peaks, is very significant.

This palace is one of a kind and has an amazing layout, with a hierarchical floor plan and numerous staircases and corridors.

This castle is an example of Sassanid architecture and

is constructed from rock and plaster mortar with a specific dome.

It was believed that a subterranean hall connected Qal'eh Dokhtar, which Ardeshir Babakan considered safe and impenetrable due to its impassability, to the palace of Ardeshir.

**Minaret of Gur**

The tower-like Minaret of Gur is a one-of-a-kind building of its time. The building's base is square under Sassanid architectural form,

and the remainder has been transformed into a tower.

The Minaret of Gur was one of the official symbols of the area during the Sassanid era and a representation of imperial power. It was situated in the middle of the historic city of Firuzabad.

About nine meters long and 30 meters high, this structure is made of granite and mortar. Archaeologists and historians claim that, in addition to serving as a symbol, this building also served as a temple, a water storage facility, and other practical purposes.

**Rock Relief of Ardeshir's victory**

One of the main reliefs of the Firuzabad Ensemble, dating back to the Sassanid Empire, is called Naqsh-e Pirooz, or the Rock Relief of Ardeshir's victory.

It portrays Ardeshir Babakan's victory over Ardavan V in battle using all the characteristics of Sassanid rock carvings.

This relief also makes clear the actual condition of the figures, their angles, and the level of detail that was paid to them. The Ardeshir's victory rock relief was carved from three different angles and is one of the non-religious carvings.

## Tehran to host intl. symposium on archaeology

TEHRAN – Tehran will be hosting an international conference on archaeology, which is scheduled to be held from February 26 to 28.

Organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism, the 20th edition of the Annual Symposium on the Iranian Archaeology will take place in the National Museum of Iran, ISNA reported on Sunday.

An important part of this conference includes presenting the results of recent Iranian archeology research, holding specialized roundtables, and organizing workshops and exhibitions.

Ancient Iran, also known as Persia,



historic region of southwestern Asia that is only roughly coterminous with modern Iran. The term Persia was used for centuries, chiefly in the West, to designate those regions where the Persian language and

culture predominated, but it more correctly refers to a region of southern Iran formerly known as Persis, alternatively as Pars or Parsa, modern Fars.

During the rule of the Persian Achaemenian dynasty (559-330 BC), the ancient Greeks first encountered the inhabitants of Persis on the Iranian plateau, when the Achaemenids —natives of Persis— were expanding their political sphere. The Achaemenids were the dominant dynasty during Greek history until the time of Alexander the Great, and the use of the name Persia was gradually extended by the Greeks and other peoples to apply to the whole Iranian plateau.

## Government, private sector collaboration needed to protect bazaar of Isfahan

TEHRAN – In order to protect the labyrinthine Bazaar of Isfahan, one of the fascinating traditional marketplaces in central Iran, the government and private sector need to work together, the director of the historical complex has said.

As one of the largest cultural and historical complexes in Iran and even in the world, this historical bazaar is of great importance, which makes it imperative that both the government and private sector participate in protecting it, Hamid Mohammadnejad explained on Sunday.

"Unfortunately, a part of the roof of this historical bazaar has been damaged by recent heavy



rains and snow," he mentioned.

But with the efforts of the related organizations such as the municipality and cultural heritage department, it is being restored by experienced restorers under the supervision of the cultural heritage experts, he added.

However, keeping this

historical complex protected will require the cooperation of all related organizations, he mentioned.

Locally known as Bazaar-e Bozorg, the Bazaar of Isfahan links the UNESCO-registered Imam Square (originally known as Meydan-e Naqsh-e Jahan) with the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan. Its charms may never end for enthusiasts of Persian culture seeing numerous craftspeople boasting skills in the mazing arcades producing handicrafts with copper, wood, ceramics, and wool.

Sometimes called "a city within another", the bazaar is a maze of lanes, madrasas, caravanserais, and timchehs

(domed halls or arcaded centers of a single trade, such as carpet vendors or coppersmiths). It can be entered at dozens of points, but the main entrance is via the Qeysarieh Portal at the northern end of Naqsh-e Jahan Square.

At its busiest in the mornings, the bazaar's arched passageways are topped by a series of small perforated domes, each spilling shafts of light onto the commerce below. While the oldest parts of the bazaar (those around the mosque) are more than a thousand years old, most of what can be seen today were built during Shah Abbas' ambitious expansions of the early 1600s.

## Dezful historical core to undergo restoration



TEHRAN – The historical texture of the southwestern Iranian city of Dezful is scheduled to undergo some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

There has been an agreement between the municipality of Dezful and the cultural heritage department regarding the

restoration of some monuments in the historical core of the city that are at risk, Hamidreza Khadem explained on Sunday.

In addition to restoration projects, another way to preserve historical monuments in Dezful is to change their use of them from residential to tourist sites, the official added.

It requires the entry of tourism investors along with cooperation from related organizations, he noted.

Located in Khuzestan province, Dezful is known as the "City of Rockets," since it was attacked over 200 times by rockets during the Iran-Iraq war.

Dezful derives from two words: dezj (fortress) and pol (bridge), which combined means "bridge to the fortress."

Khuzestan is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there contemporaneous with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.



From page 1 ► Stating that medical cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan has existed from the past until now, Nicknam said: “An Iranian medical center is active in Tajikistan and we hope to be able to expand this cooperation in other fields, especially in the field of medicine and equipment.”

He went on to say that Iran's health system has many advantages and can be the source of many services in the field of education, treatment, and research as well as the exchange of professors and students with Tajikistan.

“Fortunately, there are very good political relations between the two countries, and the way is paved for the expansion of cooperation.”

It should be mentioned that Iran provides 97 percent of its pharmaceutical need domestically, while Tajikistan imports 90 percent of its needed medicine, Nicknam stressed.

On January 18, the Tajik envoy held a meeting with Vahid Haddadi-Asl, the Iranian deputy science minister for international scientific relations.

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

Haddadi-Asl said 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.



# Iran, Tajikistan sign agreement on pharmaceutical co-op

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 COM-STECH (the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) ceremony.

## Science diplomacy

Science diplomacy is the use of sci-

entific 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 scientific activities in the past two decades, Salehi said that Iran ranked 56th in science production in 1996 and ranked 15th in 2021. Accordingly, we are leading the region in science production.

Out of a total of 77,000 articles published by Iranian scientists in the Scopus database last year, 35.7 percent were related to international joint activities. Despite the sanctions, the amount of joint scientific activities of Iranian researchers has increased every year.

Iranian scientists are not limited by geographical and political borders, and apart from multi-national projects, the increase in Iranian researchers' citations also proves this issue.

Referring to research centers, institutes, and science and technology hubs, he highlighted that in the past years, with the establishment of 240 innovation centers, as well as 49 science and technology parks, we have launched a complete roadmap to transform science into technology.



## Women's achievements

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has released a report on the achievements of women after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in 7 areas of “education”, “health”, “employment and entrepreneurship”, “media”, “sports”, “decision-making”, and “environment, climate, and crises”.

In the field of education, the share of women in university faculty members has increased by 33.3 percent, and in medical sciences universities by 34 percent. Also, the number of female students in the country's universities has increased by 56 percent, according to the report.

Also, illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

The report also says that after the Islamic Revolution until the past Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022), more than 9,500 female authors and 840 female publishers were active in the country.

## Budget for family and youth support declines

TEHRAN - The budget for implementing the law on family and youth support has decreased by 37.5 percent compared to the year before.

The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has allocated 75 trillion rials (about \$185 million) to the issue, compared with 120 trillion rials approved for the current year, ISNA reported.

Meanwhile, in the next year's budget bill, neither the Ministry of Education nor the

Ministry of Health has a separate line of credit for carrying out the law.

The budget bill has mandated the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to allocate a piece of land or a residential unit for free to families with four or more children in order to support the family and youth.

The administration is obliged to provide civil and military employees, as well as faculty members of universities and higher education and research institutions with increasing special payments for children and

families by one hundred percent and fifty percent, respectively, from the beginning of the current year for five years.

In April 2022, by a decree issued by President Ebrahim Raisi, the “Law on Family and Youth Support” approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) was notified to the Ministry of Health and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

The Guardian Council approved the law on November 17, 2021, to implement a population growth and family support

plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

The Law also describes the conditions for maternity leave. The duration of maternity

leave was increased to 9 months with the payment of all salaries and related bonuses, and if the mother requests, up to two months of this leave can be used in the final months of pregnancy, which is 12 months for the birth of twins and multiples.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has always emphasized the need for paying attention to population growth and childbearing, so everyone is required to be aware and do their duty to get the country out of the

current situation in the coming years.

The downward trend of Iran's population growth stopped for the first time in the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), Hesamoddin Allameh, the secretariat of the National Council of the Elderly, has said.

It was predicted that population growth would stop in 2052 and decline to a negative rate, but if the current trend continues for the next 10 years, the population growth rate may not stop, he noted.

## RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

### Part 48

#### Current scientific research and facilities

The Ornithology Unit of the Department of the Environment has carried out annual mid-winter censuses since 1968, and many other surveys have been undertaken on other times of the year. Visiting researchers can be accommodated at the Game Guard Station in the centre of the wildlife refuge.

#### Shadegan Marshes & mudflats

Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa, measuring 400,000 ha, are located in the southwestern Khuzestan province.

The sites were added to the Montreux Record on 16 June 1993.

It is an extensive delta on the border with Iraq, forming part of the largest lowland in Iran, and composed of the floodplains of major rivers draining 11.5 million hectares.

The site includes fresh and brackish sedge marshes, tidal flats, creeks, sandbanks and a low island.

The delta is fed by overflow channels of the Karun River, irrigation canals and local rainfall.

The area is important for breeding and wintering waterbirds and is possibly the most important wintering site in the world for Marbled Teal.

The wetland is bordered by saltflats, rice fields, date palms and human settlements. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 because of chemical pollution from the Iran-Iraq war.

#### Overview

The largely seasonal floodplain wetlands of the Dez, Karun and four other rivers and the adjacent tidal mudflats at the head of the Persian Gulf in the Khuzestan lowlands of south-western Iran.

There are fresh to brackish marshes in the north and barren tidal saline mudflats, creeks, sandbars and low muddy islands to the south.

To the north there are more fertile lands with rice paddies, date palm groves and associated settlements.

The site is extremely important for wintering waterfowl, especially Marmaronetta angustirostris, and also for breeding and passage waterfowl of a wide variety of species.

Shadegan Marshes and the tidal mudflats of Khor-al Amaya and Khor Musa are outstanding examples of floodplain wetlands and coastal mudflat ecosystems characteristic of the Persian Gulf.

The wetlands play a significant hydrological and ecological role in the natural functioning of the Persian Gulf.

The marshes provide wintering habitat for some 30-60% of the world population of the globally threatened bird Marmaronetta angustirostris, and appreciable numbers of three other threat-

ened species: Pelicans crispus, Aythya nyroca, and Aquila heliaca.

The wetlands support a very diverse flora and fauna, and thus play an important role in maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of the region.

The seasonal marshes and mudflats are important breeding and nursery grounds for various fish species, and support large breeding colonies for several species of birds.

The lakes regularly hold well in excess of 20,000 waterfowl.

The wetland supports over 1% of the regional Middle East breeding populations of the waterbirds Larus genei, Gelocheilon nilotica and Sterna albifrons.

During the migration seasons they hold over 1% of the regional population of Anas querquedula and in winter over 1% of the regional populations of Ciconia ciconia, Phoenicopiterus ruber, nine species of Anatidae, Haematopus ostralegus, Himantopus himantopus, Recurvirostra avocetta and Larus ridibundus.

#### General location

Shadegan Marshes and the mudflats of Khor-al Amaya and Khor-Musa are situated in the Province of Khuzestan, at the head of the Persian Gulf near Abadan, 50-150 km south of the city of Ahwaz.

This is a location at the southern frontier with Iraq on the Persian Gulf. There are several small settlements in the area.

#### Physical features

The wetland comprises the southern portion of the extensive floodplain and delta system of the Karun, Dez and several other rivers which rise in the northwest Zagros Mountains of western Iran.

The better drained areas in the north support fresh to brackish marshes which give way to halophytic vegetation in the central floodplain and bare, dry mudflats in the south.

The bottom of the wetland is muddy. Shoreline relief is typically a narrow or indistinct beach with vast silt or sandy tidal flats, up to 10 km wide in some places.

Numerous small islands exist, and additional islands are forming as a result of deposition from the Karun river and Shatt Al Arab.

There are creeks, mudflats and sandbanks between the islands. Autumn and winter rains in the Zagros Mountains cause extensive flooding throughout the delta, creating a vast complex of shallow lagoons with extensive sedge marshes.

These dry out gradually during the long, hot summer, and the entire area may be completely dry by the end of the summer.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Only 15% of Tehran’s construction, demolition waste recycled’

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran's department of environment (DOE) has said.

Waste materials, generally termed as construction and demolition waste, are part of construction materials' packaging, containers, and spent machinery and equipment parts that are no longer usable.

“A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face,” Bazgir said.

He further referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

## تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو می شود.

محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود.

ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.



## Iran’s capital of traditional weaving

The village of Ruyeen in the northeastern North Khorasan province is known as the capital of traditional weaving in the country.

Women in the village have been engaged in the art of traditional weaving as a custom for the past 400 years.



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JANUARY 23, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Richness is not having many belongings, but richness is contentment of the soul.*  
**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:16    Evening: 17:41    Dawn: 5:43 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 7:10 (tomorrow)

## Adab in Iran

**Part 1**

The term and its synonyms: Apart from a genre of literature, adab in Persian means education, culture, good behavior, politeness, proper demeanor; thus it is closely linked with the concept of ethics.

The first occurrence of its use in Persian is in poems by Shahid Balkhi, who died before 936. Adab is the equivalent of the Middle Persian frahang and New Persian farhang; it is also very close to another Pahlavi word, iwin, Persian ayin, meaning custom, rule, correct manner, and the like.

Thus in certain Arabic works of the early Islamic centuries, iwin is rendered either by adab and its pl. aadaab, or by rasm and its pl. rosum; but sometimes the original word, in its Persian form ayin, is retained.

Despite the opinion of scholars such as A. Christensen (Les gestes des rois dans les traditions de l'Iran antique, Paris, 1936), G. Richter (Studien zur Geschichte der älteren arabischen Fürstenspiegel, Leipzig, 1932; repr. 1968), and A. Eqbal (al-Adab al-wajiz, ed. Gh. H. Ahani, Isfahan, 1961) adab cannot be considered exactly equivalent to iwin/ayin.

The definition of adab in Iran: On the basis of the Shahnameh and other works wholly rooted in the Iranian cultural tradition, adab may be defined in general as ideal refinement of thought, word, and deed.

Ways of implementing this ideal in every field are specified by precise rules, whose main common characteristic is regard for proportion (andazeh) or moderation (mianeh-ravi) in conduct.

The passages cited below will clarify these matters; particular examples will be examined first.

On the subject of speech, the Shahnameh repeatedly affirms the rule of soft-spokenness (narm-guyi). This means that a person's tone and cadence should be quiet and slow.

His utterances should never be gruff or wounding; as Ferdowsi puts it, he should not "tear anyone's skin with words". Similarly in the Pahlavi text Handarz i Aturpat i Maraspandan, it is emphasized that we should not "hurt people with words."

Another point that the Shahnameh makes is that we should stay silent in the face of insults and that if the insult-giver takes our silence for weakness and goes beyond the limit in his rudeness, we should then answer him in smooth (charb), fresh (tazeh), i.e., vigorous, but moderate (be andazeh) language.

A similar concern with refinement appears in the rules of generosity. Any possessor of riches can make a gift whenever, to whomsoever, and of whatever size he pleases, but there is a risk that his manner may embarrass or humiliate the recipient.

The rules are therefore intended to instruct the giver on refinement of conduct so that he does not hurt the recipient's feelings; this is why it is taught that the giver should be grateful to the recipient, not vice versa, because the giver buys peace and serenity for his soul with his gift and is really comparable with a merchant

who has profited from a transaction.

In other words, generosity is presented here as a natural and normal human characteristic, and this implies that generosity is brought within the scope of adab not by the act of giving in itself, but by the observance of its refined and subtle rules.

These and other kinds of refinement are not just enunciated here and there in the form of ethical maxims; they are manifested throughout the Shahnameh in the actual conduct of its heroes.

A good example is the behavior of the man who brings the head of Tur to the latter's father Fereidun and the response of Fereidun to the sight of his son's head.

Another is the reception which the Iranian commander Gudarz gives to Ruyin, who has been sent by his father Piran to Gudarz's tent with an offer of peace; although Gudarz has already lost seventy sons and grandsons in the war with Turan, he walks with a cheerful face to meet Ruyin, embraces him, asks how Afrasiab, he himself, and the other Turanian generals are faring, and hospitably entertains him for one week before he finally tells him that there can be no solution except through battle.

Esfandiari, having reached Sistan, neither accepts Rostam's invitation to have meals with him, nor does he reciprocate the invitation for fear that if they ate each other's food and Rostam disobeyed him, he would be unable to carry out his instructions on account of the bond of friendship which the sharing of food creates.

The custom of keram required that a host, after inviting someone to a banquet, should at the appointed time send a messenger to find him and renew the invitation in case the prospective guest might be afraid of going to the host's house only to find that the host had forgotten, in which case both would be embarrassed.

Many similar examples are to be found in the Shahnameh and the books of counsel (andarz) in Pahlavi and Persian. In the Qabusnameh, particular attention is given to refinement of conduct; e.g., when you go to a banquet, you should be neither hungry nor replete; when you are eating, you should not look at another person's morsel, and so forth.

An amusing example of the need for refinement of speech is provided by an incident which occurred between the book's author, Onsor al-ma'ali Kaykavus, and the Shaddadid ruler of Ganja, Amir Abul-Sewar; the incident's moral is the same as in the Shahnameh's teachings about generosity: There is no inherent virtue, or adab, in the sole act of truth-telling.

The essence of adab is discernment, such as the ability to recognize that absurd things ought not to be said even if they are true, and that a polite lie is often preferable to an absurd truth; as Kaykavus says, "Never tell truths which sound like lies!".

Avoidance of useless talk is likewise often commended in the Shahnameh; in one passage it is likened to a fire which produces only smoke.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

# Serbia's first lady Tamara Vucic visits Iran national library

From Page 1 ► Vucic referred to a widely-known African proverb that says "If you educate a man, you educate an individual; if you educate a woman, you educate a nation," and praised the NLIA for using a female labor force.

She also praised Iranians' hospitality and said that the visit to the library raised her knowledge of Iranian culture and civilization.

Mokhtarpur thanked Vucic for granting the books to the library and hoped that signing a memorandum of understanding between the national libraries of Iran and Serbia would help improve cultural ties between the two countries.

Iran and Serbia enjoy a close cultural relationship. Serbia was selected as the special guest of the 31st Tehran International Book Fair in 2018.

In the head of a large high-level delegation, the then Serbian Culture and Information Minister, Vladan Vukosavljevic, visited Iran at that time.

National Library and Archives of Iran director Alireza Mokhtarpur presents Serbia's first lady Tamara Vucic with a gift following her visit to the library on January 21, 2023. (NLAI)

In August 2018, the CEO of the Lazic Library in Serbia, Viktor Lazic, who is also heir to a long tradition of a family library that operated in Vojvodina from 1882 until 1977, was invited to deliver a speech about the library at the Malek National Library and Museum in Tehran.

## “All the President’s Men” to come up for review at Iranian Artists Forum

Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman act in a scene from “All the President’s Men”.

TEHRAN – “All the President’s Men”, a 1976 American epic political drama about the Watergate scandal that brought down the presidency of Richard Nixon, will be reviewed in a session at the Iranian Artists Forum this

afternoon.

Directed by Alan J. Pakula with a screenplay by William Goldman, it is based on the 1974 non-fiction book of the same name by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, the two journalists investigating the Watergate scandal for The Washington Post.

Media scholar Saeid Arkanzadeh Yazdi will talk about media relationship with power at the session, which will be held at the Cinematheque of the forum at 3 pm.

Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman portray Woodward and Bernstein, respectively. The film was produced by Walter Coblenz for Redford's Wildwood Enterprises.

The film was nominated in multiple Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA categories, and in

2010, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.”

Unlike the book, the film covers only the first seven months of the Watergate scandal, from the time of the break-in to Nixon's second inauguration on January 20, 1973.

The film introduced the catchphrase “follow the money” in relation to the case, which did not appear in the book or in any Watergate documentation.

The film received eight nominations at the Academy Awards and won in four categories, including best supporting actor for Jason Robards and best screenplay for William Goldman.

## Wilhelm Baum’s book “Shirin: Christian Queen Myth of Love” published in Persian

Front cover of the Persian edition of Wilhelm Baum's book “Shirin: Christian Queen Myth of Love”.

TEHRAN – “Shirin: Christian Queen Myth of Love” by Austrian historian Wilhelm Baum has been published in Persian.

Morvarid is the publisher of the 2004 book translated by Mahnaz Babai.

Shirin, the beloved wife of the Persian shah, Khosrow II (b. 628), pulled political strings behind the scenes and supported the Christian minority in Iran.

After the fall of Khosrow,

Ferdowsi remembered Shirin in his epic, the Shahnameh.

Around 1180, the Persian poet Nizami wrote of her alleged love for the master builder Farhad in his epic Khosrow and Shirin, which was often imitated in Persian, Turkish and Indian literary circles.

Shirin became an image of love par excellence, living on even as far as Europe in no less a work than Goethe's “West-East Divan”.

The book adds an interesting

perspective to women's studies in early Christianity, an area of research that has attracted considerable attention in recent years, and beautifully traces the transformation of a historic figure into a literary archetype.

Wilhelm Baum, historian, theologian and philosopher, lives in Klagenfurt, Germany.

In addition to English, his books have been translated into Spanish, Italian and Slovenian.

## Having Bullets as Neighbors

**An interview with Reza Karimi**

The book “Having Bullets as Neighbors” is about the bravery and sufferings of the brave and oppressed people of Al Fu'ah and Kafarya during the three years of siege by the Takfiri movement.

It was considered a form of revenge by the terrorists to capture Fu'ah and Kafarya, since the Shiites of these two cities had sided with the Syrian army since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, and many of the residents of these two cities defended the shrine of Hazrat Zainab.

With the aim of weakening the resistance and making them surrender, the terrorists decided to besiege these two cities and while completely cutting off the water, electricity, and gas transmission lines, they prevented any food and medicine from entering these two cities.

This inhumane siege caused serious crises for the city's residents, and in addition to that, the non-stop rain of rockets destroyed all the infrastructure of these cities and caused many human casualties.

**\* Did you have specific criteria for choosing people for the interview?**

No, we did not. All the people who came out of the siege were those who were under siege for almost three and a half years in the worst conditions and resisted. They endured a lot of suffering but showed courage and did not allow the armed men to enter the two cities they were surrounded by dignity. So, all these people could

since it is possible that future generations will remain unaware as well, I thought it necessary for me to write about this issue and share my observations with others.

**\* How did you come up with the subject to write a book about it?**

My involvement with the resistance fronts, the media, and oral history was extensive for several years, and I made observations that could be used to write books, and make documentaries, films, and series based on those experiences.

**\* Would you tell me what documents you used when you wrote this?**

Our documents are based on interviews with people who were under siege and who came out of the siege; In this way, we talked to a large number of these people, which were later turned into texts and summarized, and the part that could be turned into a story and narrative was selected.

**\* Did you have specific criteria for choosing people for the interview?**

No, we did not. All the people who came out of the siege were those who were under siege for almost three and a half years in the worst conditions and resisted. They endured a lot of suffering but showed courage and did not allow the armed men to enter the two cities they were surrounded by dignity. So, all these people could

have been selected for the interview, but some of them who had the best expression or whose mood allowed the interview were selected.

**\* How long did it take to write the book?**

Although the book is not big, it took about three years to write. It took a year of interviews and summaries and two years of putting the stories together to complete the book.

**\* When interviewing these people, what was the bitterest story you heard?**

Many of the scenes that take place in the war are bitter. Obviously, war is bitter and brings discomfort to every person involved, no matter where it occurred. Many of the events that occur in war and the violence that exists, the casualties of war are too many to mention.