

Iran, Russia Looking for a New World Order

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Tehran Times seeks views of a military expert:

What effect does receiving Su-35 have on Iran’s air power and regional equations?

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© An acrobatic figure by a Su-35 in Paris Air Show 2013. Picture by Mötty

Mass shooting reflects U.S. culture of violence and terror

TEHRAN- The latest mass shooting in the U.S. reflects the same culture of violence and terror Washington spreads around the world.

Ten people have been killed and at least 10 others injured in the attack which happened in the city of Monterey Park, California. Police entered a white van after hearing a gunshot and found a body inside, which officials later identified as the suspect.

This is by far the deadliest mass shooting in America since 19 young children and two teachers were murdered at a primary school in Uvalde, Texas, last year in May. However, it is nowhere near the only mass shooting the country has witnessed so early in 2023.

According to the Washington-based Gun Violence Archive, one of the most prominent monitoring groups for shooting incidents in the United States, the latest attack on American civilians is the 33rd mass shooting on U.S. soil already this year. ► Page 5

Sa Pinto’s Esteghlal out of title race

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Esteghlal have lost two of their past three Iran Professional League (IPL) games to slip eight points off the top of the table which is occupied by their archrivals Persepolis.

The recent defeat against Sepahan has put Esteghlal’s head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto under pressure.

An added-time goal from Ramin Rezaeian helped Sepahan complete a dramatic late 2-1 win over Esteghlal in their pursuit of the title of IPL.

Esteghlal fans are unhappy with the Portuguese coach’s performance so far as the defending champions are now fourth in the IPL standing.

Their defeat against Sepahan showed how far Esteghlal have fallen behind their title race rivals this season and raised doubts about Sa Pinto’s future at the club.

The Portuguese has tried to turn attention to the referees and has criticize them for their decisions. ► Page 3

Iran raised to 4th place among top OPEC producers in December: IEA

TEHRAN - The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its latest “Oil Market Report” released last week put Iran’s oil production in December at 2.72 million barrels per day (bpd) indicating that the country has risen to the fourth place among OPEC’s top oil producers.

Based on the report, Iran’s oil output in the last month of 2022 did not change compared to November, however, the figure was 210,000 bpd more than that of October.

OPEC’s total crude production in December stood at 29.19 million bpd, 40,000 bpd less than the previous month.

Saudi Arabia was the top OPEC producer in December 2022 with a daily production of 10.48 million barrels of oil, followed by Iraq with 4.45 million bpd and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 3.23 million bpd of production.

Earlier this month, OPEC in its latest monthly report also said Iran’s oil production in 2022 increased by seven percent compared to the previous year.

According to the OPEC report, the Islamic Republic produced 2.554 million bpd of crude oil in 2022, 162,000 bpd more than the figure for 2021, when the output stood at 2.392

million bpd.

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

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

According to ship tracking data, the Islamic Republic’s oil exports have risen mostly due to the higher shipments to China and Venezuela. ► Page 4

Iranian society vulnerable to climate change for over 4,000 years: study

TEHRAN – A team of researchers at Linköping University, Sweden, have studied historical variations in precipitation and vegetation in south-eastern Iran, close to the archeological site in Konar Sandal, over the last 4,000 years.

The study highlights the vulnerability of human societies to fluctuating climates. According to the study, pronounced climate fluctuations and changed conditions for agriculture coincided with the rise and fall of the Persian Empires.

Today, most of Iran is a desert. But further back in history, the entire area experienced a lot of rainfall before the monsoon patterns changed. From the Late Bronze Age to Late Antiquity, Iran was at the center of significant political and economic developments in the region, EurekAlert reported on January 17. ► Page 7

Hand-carved bathhouse, a top tourist attraction in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – Dash Hammami, a hand-carved bathhouse in the heart of a cave in Givi, north-western province of Ardabil, is one of the top tourist destinations of the region and a masterpiece of troglodyte architecture.

One of the oldest bathhouses in Iran, it is still used by the locals. It has a rectangular space made of stone all around, and the central space has been dug into the ground in order to keep

the air warm and suitable.

A natural stone ceiling covers the whole space, and the bathing space consists of 40 square meters, where water boils from three springs and falls into a pool, and water drops drip from different parts of the roof.

The water in this historical stone bathhouse varies in temperature, and the hot water, which does not exceed 20 degrees, is used as a shower.

From Inside

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Tehran Papers

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

Why Council of Europe won’t put IRGC on terror list

Etemad believes that the Council of Europe will not include the IRGC on its list of terrorist groups.

The newspaper lists five reasons for this, which are:

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EU indebted to IRGC anti-terror activities: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday underlined that the European Parliament’s decision to label the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization is illegal under the UN Charter and that Europe is safe because of the IRGC’s unrelenting campaign against terrorist organizations.

Nasser Kanaani, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, stated that imposing sanctions on the IRGC is “clearly in breach of the UN Charter.” ► Page 2

Blacklisting IRGC must be approved by court: EU’s Borrell

TEHRAN- Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, stated on Monday that without a court order the EU cannot declare the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

Borrell made the comments as he arrived in Brussels where the EU foreign ministers held talks to slap more sanctions against Iran for purported human rights breaches. ► Page 2

Iran’s “Motherless,” “Life & Life” win top awards at Dhaka film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian drama “Motherless” was named best film while “Life & Life” garnered the best director award for Iranian filmmaker Ali Qavitan at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Written and directed by Seyyed Morteza Fatemi, “Motherless” is about an educated, middle-aged couple, Amir-Ali and Marjan, who lead a quiet life. When Marjan insists on renting a womb and a surrogate mother enters their life, unintentionally they go through different tests and face moral dilemmas. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Why Council of Europe won't put IRGC on terror list

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

from page 1 ► 1- Legal obstacles:

Placing the military entities of a country on the list of terrorist organizations is against international law, and the Council of Europe, in the case of finalizing this proposal of the European Parliament, will violate international law.

2- Nuclear consequences:

The possible wrong decision will completely sound the death knell of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). By reviewing the statements of the officials of the European countries over the last few months, we see that the end of the JCPOA is the worst for the EU.

3- Regional consequences:

Undoubtedly, regarding the IRGC's record in the past decade in the fight against terrorism in the region, sanctioning it and labeling it terrorist can create a lot of crises in the region.

4- Political consequences

Before making any decision, the Council of Europe should carefully consider its effects on Iran and the EU's ties. It is important for Europe to keep its embassies open in Tehran, and the wrong move can have consequences for Europe's economic and regional relations.

5- Military consequences

Such a wrong decision by the Council of Europe can have consequences for the military forces of these countries. Because Iran will also take counter-measures. By placing the army of European countries on its list of terrorist groups, Iran will create problems for them.

Kayhan: Europe serves as sandbag to protect US interests

In an article, the Kayhan newspaper refers to the inequality among European Union members and between the EU and the United States.

The newspaper says: Some European governments follow a passive policy toward the EU and the U.S.

They pay the high cost for the U.S. and British ambitions; they play the role of sandbags to protect them. Look at all the member states! Often, the interests of Eastern and Central European countries have been sacrificed for the interests of several Western European governments, and also the United States.

In the past, Iran has experienced Europe's passiveness in failing to honor its commitments to the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the JCPOA.

European governments have been unable to protect their national interests against the greed of America and Zionist Octopus for years.

The United States imposed the high cost of the Ukrainian war on the economy and security of Europe. More than 25,000 companies in Europe have gone bankrupt after the Ukrainian war.

In another part of the article, Kayhan wrote: Western authoritarian governments started two major destructive world wars and then sat back to watch the insecurity of the world. In the last two decades, while announcing the "The Project for the New American Century (PNAC)", the Americans wanted to implement the "New Middle East" and change the map of the region with direct and proxy wars. But the plot failed due to the action of resistance forces.

On one hand, the Europeans are whispering that the IRGC is a terrorist; on the other, they want to preserve the tattered JCPOA, which has been violated by them 11 times!

The hostile actions of the European side are definitely an opportunity for Iran to decisively prevent the Western influence and identify the pro-Western

currents inside.

Javan: Conspiracy out of desperation

In an article, Javan refers to the move by the European Parliament against the IRGC and writes: This anti-Iran action is the continuation of the same path that America started When Trump was in the White House.

In recent months and after the war in Ukraine, the reality of Iran's military power has become proven to the Westerners and led the Europeans to conclude that if Iran is not contained, a new chapter will begin in global power structure, so they first created internal unrest, then acted against the IRGC.

The finalization of the European resolution against the IRGC will have negative effects and consequences for Iran and of course more for the Europeans and will lead to a type of lawlessness in international arena.

If Europeans go their own way that the others designed for them, they have accepted from now on that the IRGC is not obligated to honor international law and they can no longer ask the Iranian government to limit the IRGC's regional actions because they themselves have accepted that the Iranian government will no longer be responsible for the actions. Not having responsibility in this regard can be extended to all affairs between the IRGC and the armies of these countries.

Also, in possible conflicts between the IRGC and the military forces of these countries, the IRGC will no longer be required to comply with human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the laws governing war.

The security in the Persian Gulf will also be affected as Europeans will have to give the data of their ships to an organization that they consider terrorist! They even have to wait for the inspection of their ships by the same organization, and in case of violation of these cases, the Iranian government will no longer be responsible for their safety and anything that happens to them.

Khorasan: Bibi is in trouble

In an article entitled "Netanyahu's headache", Khorasan writes while only about a month has passed since the formation of the new Netanyahu government, the cabinet ministers have caused many controversies in this short period.

The occupied territories have become more flammable and Saturdays have turned into Netanyahu's black days.

Tens of thousands of Zionist settlers are coming to the streets in protest against extremism and illegal actions of the extreme right wings at the Israeli cabinet and they intend to continue the protests until the ruling Likud party and its allies are toppled.

The daily, accordingly, refers to Netanyahu's challenge in dealing with his opponents from outside the cabinet and trouble-makers ministers inside the cabinet, writing: The big problem that Netanyahu's cabinet is facing, which has put it in danger of collapse, is appointment of individuals to ministerial posts who are not qualified based on the standards of the supreme court.

Now, Bibi is apparently the prime minister, but he is not as powerful as he was in the past; and in fact, he is the head of a governing structure that acts like a board of directors.

Given the current situation, Netanyahu is now at a crossroads. If he continues to oppose the far-right parties, his shaky cabinet will fall down. Also, tolerating extremists in the cabinet amid intensifying internal disputes between officials and party leaders will lead to a full-scale conflict with Palestinians and will force Arab countries to move further away from the path of normalization with Israel.

from page 1 ► Previously, the EU foreign policy chief had downplayed the European Parliament's resolution in blacklisting the IRGC.

"A judicial ruling must be made first in order to settle this issue. You cannot declare that just because you don't like me, I think you're a terrorist," Borrell remarked.

He also said that before the EU can take action against the IRGC, a court in an EU member state must announce a specific judicial condemnation.

Tehran Times seeks views of a military expert:



What effect does receiving Su-35 have on Iran's air power and regional equations?

TEHRAN- The Islamic Republic of Iran will soon receive a full squadron of Sukhoi Su-35 fighter planes from Russia, a move that is certain to further enrage the West as Tehran and Moscow are strengthening their defense and economic collaboration in defiance of Western comprehensive sanctions and draconian measures.

According to media sources, quoting military specialists, Iran will soon get 24 of the fourth-generation twin-engine, super-maneuverable fighter jets from Russia that are mostly used for air dominance missions.

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

Tehran Times has interviewed Mehdi Bakhtiari, a military expert, in this regard.

Recently, one of the parliament members announced that Iran will receive Sukhoi Su-35 from Russia in the spring. Undoubtedly, receiving these fighters take place through certain steps and preparations. At what stage is this process?

Purchasing a fighter, or basically, any weapon purchase requires a series of preparations in the related unit, which sometimes makes the delivery process a little longer. For example, in the case of purchasing any type of fighter, in addition to the training of pilots, technical support, repair, and preservation facilities, in fact the (whole) unit, must be prepared. Moreover, Iran is one of the few countries that uses both Western and Eastern aircraft in its air fleet, however, Western produc-

tions are dominant due to much more purchases from the West in the past. This (fact) can influence the process of preparing facilities for Eastern aircraft. In addition, the process of manufacturing the product by the manufacturer according to the order of the buyer is another effective factor in the delivery time.

While several officials have announced that the delivery of the equipment purchased from Russia such as fighters is near, including the latest one by a member of the National Security Committee (of the Iranian Parliament) that Sukhoi Su-35 fighters will arrive in Iran early next (Iranian) year, I personally believe that it is not possible to determine an exact time of delivery unless we see the aircraft on the runway of one of the country's military airports because ups and downs of relations between countries can sometimes be affected by a series of changes that are effective in the delivery or even non-delivery of such products.

Have the Russian authorities commented on this issue?

So far, except for a series of general comments, I have not seen any reliable and accurate news from Russian officials addressing these cases as examples.

In terms of technology and efficiency, how do you assess these fighters? Have they passed the test on a real battlefield so far?

Sukhoi Su-35 is one of the most powerful fighters of the 4.5 generation and a single-seater air superiority aircraft. The fighter is the most advanced type of Russia's Flanker Family, which started with the Sukhoi Su-27, and is the most advanced fighter in service

of the Russian military after the Sukhoi Su-57. Benefiting from phased array radars and the ability to carry a wide range of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons, this multi-role fighter, in addition to its main mission of air combat, can also operate against targets both on the ground and sea.

Sukhoi Su-35's first combat presence was in the Syrian war, which was mostly used in combat patrol flights near the airspace of the Occupied Territories and Turkey, and in some cases, air-to-surface attacks. In the Ukraine war, the fighter was mainly used for air patrol, air-to-air combat, and anti-radar operations. Its performance caused the Ukrainian pilots to consider the Sukhoi Su-35 a serious threat. As of yet, there has been only one report regarding the fighter being shot down.

How does receiving these fighters boost the capacity of Iran's Air Force?

Shortly after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic was subjected to the most severe sanctions, and these sanctions had more pressure on the military field, especially the air sector.

Due to the high consumption of spare parts in fighter jets and use of these jets in the extensive 8-year war (Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s), the potency of the air sector faced many problems, although some purchases in the 1370s (1990s) partially met these needs. But in general, the air sector is still suffering from many problems due to old aircraft.

Of course, the Islamic Republic (of Iran) has tried to meet some of these needs by developing other sectors such as missile and drone (sectors), however, new genera-

tion of fighters in the air fleet of the armed forces can greatly help in improving the defense power, especially since Iran's neighbors in the region and, of course, the enemies are focusing on strengthening their air power day by day. The existence of new Sukhoi Su-35 fighters will surely complete (some) needs of the air fleet, although the number of these aircraft and their complementary equipment should also be taken into consideration.

Can these fighters affect the balance of military power in the region, especially regarding the Israeli regime?

Surely it does. Of course, regarding the threats of the Zionist regime, focusing on the issue of air defense, as well as the development of missile and drone capabilities, in addition to strengthening the Resistance Front in these two fields, has had great effects.

Do you think the Russians want to send a message to the West by selling these jets to Iran in view of the Ukraine war?

Every relation and even the purchase and sale of military equipment between (any) countries surely carries a political message to others, and this cooperation between Iran and Russia (not only in the field of purchasing fighters) is naturally not an exception. But the issue of purchasing fighters from Russia has been on the agenda for years and it is unlikely to have a special connection with the war in Ukraine. However, the delivery of this equipment in this particular period of time - if it happens - can also have a political message, especially to countries such as the United States and the European Union.

In your opinion, how will the U.S. and the Israeli regime react to this issue?

At different times, whenever the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed to reach an agreement with practical action in the international arena, the United States and the Zionist regime tried their best efforts to prevent it. We also witnessed this in the JCPOA. Even in the past, regarding the purchase of the S-300 missile system from Russia, we witnessed how the obstructions of countries such as the United States and the Zionist regime delayed the transfer of the system from Russia to Iran for several months.

Iran, Venezuela explore ways to deepen ties

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Vice Foreign Minister Capaya Rodriguez of Venezuela met on Monday to discuss progress in bilateral ties.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the necessity to bolster ties, particularly in areas of high-tech, technology, and the energy sector.

The vice minister from Venezuela, for her part, underscored the value of women's roles in all societies. She pointed to women's congress in Tehran, saying it demonstrated the prominent and admirable status of women in Iran.

Iran hosted the first international congress of women of influence on Thursday and Friday.

Women from 96 different countries attended the congress.

First ladies from Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Serbia, Guinea, Niger and Sri Lanka, as well as top female officials from Syria and



Turkmenistan were present at the conference.

The conference was attended by 300 international visitors, including vice presidents and members of parliament.

Iranian FM meets Nicaraguan "women of influence"

Also, Amir Abdollahian visited on Monday

the Nicaraguan female officials who had participated in the congress on women. They included ministers of interior, family, education, youth, health, and higher education.

At the meeting, Amir Abdollahian stressed the need of strengthening connections between Iran and countries in Latin America, particularly Nicaragua.

Ramona Rodriguez, President of the Autonomous University of Nicaragua and minister of higher education, headed the delegation.

Rodriguez advocated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Autonomous University of Nicaragua and the University of Tehran as well as the plan to promote academic, scientific, and cultural interactions between her country and Iran.

Other Nicaraguan cabinet ministers also shared their perspectives on the various areas where Iran and Nicaragua can collaborate.

Blacklisting IRGC must be approved by court: EU's Borrell



from page 1 ► Speaking at a weekly press briefing, Kanaani said the IRGC's anti-terror activities in Syria and Iraq had given Europe a sense of security.

Kanaani also said that Iran has rejected the resolution, calling it "irresponsible and illogical."

"Absence of nuclear talks doesn't mean no exchange of messages"

He also said lack of new rounds of negotiations between Iran and the West "does not equal to the absence of engagement or exchange of messages and viewpoints."

Talks to revive the tattered 2015

nuclear agreement have stalled since months. Iran and the U.S. accuse each other for stalemate in the talks.

Kanaani went on to say that both parties' interests will be served by the talks.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson emphasized that Tehran and Washington have not held any direct conversations.

The European Union has been acting as intermediary between Iran and the U.S. to put the JCPOA on the right track. Iran has refused to negotiate directly with the U.S. since talks started in April 2021 to restore the agree-

ment.

Iran has linked direct talks to U.S. to entry to the agreement.

"Foreign-backed riots in Iran"

Given the inquiry about the U.S. sponsorship for the recent riots in Iran, Kanaani also said Washington has always taken "non-constructive and destructive" tactics toward the Islamic Republic and the Iranian people.

Furthermore, he asserted that the U.S. government's "hostile" acts, notably the unilateral sanctions placed on Iran, "had inflicted immense damage on Iran's government and nation."

The "unjust" U.S. sanctions, he continued, are blatant evidence of "crimes against humanity."

"Iran's frozen assets in South Korea"

The spokesperson also said release of Iranian assets in South Korea shouldn't be connected to other diplomatic matters, insisting Iran is entitled to have access to its money held in South Korea.

Expressing concern over the South Korean government's improper cooperation on the frozen assets, he said Tehran's next steps will hinge on Seoul's decisions.

Iran, Russia looking for a new world order

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Chairman of the Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin has arrived in Tehran and met with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. In Tehran, talks of a 25-year partnership between Iran and Russia featured high.

While Volodin visiting Tehran at a critical world juncture, Iran and Russia appear to be moving in the direction of upgrading their ties to a strategic level within the framework of the 25-year partnership agreement that is under consideration in both countries.

While this partnership is conspicuously bilateral, it comes against a backdrop of a delicate moment in the world, with Russia and Iran both facing severe sanctions imposed by the West.

The sanctions seem to be creating a common ground between the two countries to boost their ties and lay the groundwork for a new, multipolar world order in the process.

Commenting on the visit, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali has underlined the need for close consultations between Tehran and Moscow amid a Western drive to protect Western-centric world order.

Jalali referred to the visit by Volodin to Iran. “The visit of the head of the Russian State Duma to Tehran amid the rapid international developments confirms the necessity of continuing close consultations between the two countries,” the ambassador said on Twitter.

He added, “Now that the West has exerted all its power for the continuation of the Western-oriented world order, the interaction between Iran and Russia in the forefront of the new international order strengthens the axis of the emerging powers.”

Volodin was accorded an official reception in Tehran on Monday morning led by Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf.

After the welcoming ceremony, Qalibaf and Volodin held the third Joint High Commission of Parliamentary Cooperation between Iran and Russia.

“The Joint High Commission is being held when both sides have reached a common understanding of sensitivities and cooperation. We hope that in 2023, relations between

the parliaments will find their way with more momentum in the political and economic arena, as well as other strategic cooperation,” Qalibaf said.

He added, “After entering into any phenomenon and incident, opportunities and threats arise, and it is true that the officials of the two countries, parliaments, governments and nations can act in a way that maximizes the use of opportunities and turns threats into opportunities. Otherwise, we

Iran pursues full implementation of agreements with Russia



TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi told visiting Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin on Monday afternoon that Tehran seriously pursues the full implementation of agreements with Russia, noting that Iran-Russia ties will benefit the entire region.

Stating that the economic relations between Tehran and Moscow are continuously increasing, Raisi said, “The two countries have diverse and numerous capabilities and capacities in various fields of trade, energy, transit and transportation, which can be operated to expand bilateral relations.”

The president also said that the Islamic Republic seriously pursues the full implementation of the agreements with Russia.

“The capacities and potentials of the two sides can complement each other, and their use not only have benefits for the region but also secures the interests of the two countries,” the president remarked.

The chairman of the State Duma, for his part, noted that the president’s approach to strengthening regional and neighborhood relations would facilitate the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

“The Russian Federation also has the same approach and opinion about enhancing the level of engagement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, as our schedule and agenda are set by the will of the two countries to constantly develop bilateral cooperation,” Volodin added.

will lose opportunities and also opportunities will become threats.”

Qalibaf stated, “Our officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation know that we are at an important point in bilateral and multilateral relations and national and regional issues, and time is

the most important element in this decision.”

He said, “We must look to the future and the strategic agreement between Iran and Russia must be taken into consideration. We must implement the 25-year agreement as soon as possible.”

Volodin, for his part, praised the relations between Iran and Russia, according to ICANA. “The relations between Iran and Russia have found a positive development path and the

results in this joint commission that will secure the interests of the two countries. Various economic and commercial issues will be raised in this joint commission.”

Volodin said, “Considering the development of parliamentary relations between Iran and Russia, we are looking for new structures for the development and deepening of relations.”

This high-ranking Russian official pointed to the 25-year agreement between Iran and Russia and said, “This agreement does not only include new relations, but will create a foundation for the development of relations.”

The head of the Russian Duma mentioned the role of Qalibaf in signing the 25-year contract and presenting its draft to the Russian authorities during his visit to Moscow.

He said, “I hope that in the near future this contract will be reviewed by the heads of government of the two countries. This agreement is not only a strategic agreement, but it is a building block for the development of cooperation in all fields, and it will also be a new building block for greater cooperation between the two countries.”

Volodin added, “We are well aware that we must use all our efforts to create a new architecture for the world, and this depends on the will of the two countries. Iran and Russia definitely support the concept of global multipolar architecture.”

He continued, “Iran and Russia have been facing sanctions and challenges for a long time, and these threats do not hinder the development of our relations. In fact, the main purpose of sanctions is to maintain the hegemony of the United States in the world, but we defend our national sovereignty and determine our own destiny. We support our traditions, literature and language and support the independent politics of countries.”

He noted, “They are used to interfering in other countries and want to use all the resources of the world to increase their wealth. Of course, the United States is already damaged, but the European Union follows the policies of the United States. The leaders of Europe must get the energy and gas they need from non-Russian markets and at higher prices than before, which is very difficult for them.”

He said, “We hope to achieve

presence of Iranian companies in the African state.

Bagheri Kani’s visit to Burkina Faso comes in continuation of a tour of several African countries. During this tour, Bagheri Kani held a meeting with Nigerien Foreign Minister Massoudou Hassoumi in Niamey.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed the latest situation of ties and cooperation between Iran and Niger and explored ways to expand and promote bilateral and international cooperation.

They also stressed the need to convene the third session of the Joint Economic Commission between Iran and Niger in the first half of 2023.

Bagheri Kani also held separate meetings with Niger’s ministers of interior, energy and planning, deputy foreign minister, heads of the parliamentary friendship group and chamber of commerce.

During the meetings, officials of the two countries discussed mechanisms for the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

entrance to Afghanistan’s foreign ministry is very regrettable and we strongly condemn it.

Amir Abdollahian added terrorism is the common enemy of the regional countries and that terrorists seek fulfilling goals and desires of the world arrogance through killing innocent people so that the arrogant powers could dominate the regional countries.



SPORTS

Sa Pinto’s Esteghlal out of title race

From Page 1 ► However, it didn’t work for Sa Pinto as the fans and former players of Esteghlal have put him under pressure and have criticized him especially for his behavior and reactions in and off the pitch.

The Blues’ form is in sharp contrast to their strong last season run when Esteghlal, under the guidance of Farhad Majidi, won the IPL trophy without a single defeat. “Esteghlal have entered into an unwanted crisis and the controversies, mostly made by the head coach, and he has hurt the team,” says Mehdi Fononizadeh, former player of Esteghlal, regarding the current condition of the team.

“Sa Pinto is a stubborn coach and has struggles with many players. He is not able or does not want to use some players. He must change his attitude towards many issues from tactical points to dealing with players,” added the expert.

Sa Pinto didn’t allow Siavash Yazdani, Esteghlal defender, to train on Sunday and removed him from the list and no clear reason was given by him for the decision.

Continuous changes in the team’s line-up and even the team’s tactics have caused confusion for the Esteghlal players in performing the assigned tasks on the pitch.

Sa Pinto is experiencing difficult times in the Iranian football, and maybe these recent results will cost him the Blues bench before the end of the 2022/23 IPL season.

Hamid Azizi re-elected head of Iran golf federation

TEHRAN – Hamid Azizi was re-elected as president of Iran golf federation on Monday for a four-year term till 2027.

In the elections held at the Iran’s Academy Olympic in Tehran, Azizi secured 36 of 51 votes cast.

Elham Akbari earned 11 votes and Amir Ghariblou came third with four votes.

Persepolis draw Sepahan: Hazfi Cup Round of 16

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team will travel to Isfahan to play Sepahan in Iran’s Hazfi Cup Round of 16. Esteghlal, the most decorated football team in Hazfi Cup, will host Malavan in Tehran.

The draw ceremony was held in Iran Football League Organization on Monday.

Nassaji are defending champions.

This round will be held on Feb. 21 and 22.

Round of 16 draw in full:

*Sepahan vs Persepolis

*Esteghlal vs Malavan

*Gol Gohar vs Foolad

*Aluminum vs Nassaji

*Havadar vs Mes Rafsanjan

*Esteghlal Mollasani vs Mes Kerman

*Navad Urmia vs Paykan

*Darya Caspian Babol vs Pars Jonoubi Jam

Enayati takes charge of struggling Naft Masjed Soleyman

TEHRAN – Former Esteghlal forward Reza Enayati was named as new head coach of Naft Masjed Soleyman football team.

The 46-year-old coach replaced Ebrahim Ashkesh in the Iranian top flight football team.

He has been appointed as Naft Masjed Soleyman head coach until the end of the season.

Enayati is the club’s third coach in the 2022/23 Iran Professional League (IPL) season.

He was without a team since parting company with Havadar in the last year.

Naft Masjed Soleyman are in serious danger of being relegated from IPL.

The team are 16th in the 16-team table.

Iranian pair claim silver, bronze in ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge

TEHRAN – One boy and one girl from Iran won the silver and the bronze medals of the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge-2022 in France.

At the end of the event, hosted by Hennebont in France, Iranian male table tennis player Faraz Shakiba was the runner-up and received the silver medal.

Meanwhile, Iranian female player, Vania Yavari, won the bronze medal of the event.

Yavari defeated her competitors from Colombia, France, Canada, America, Tunisia, Hungary, Ukraine and lost her games to athletes from Sweden and Thailand to win the bronze medal.

Poland beat Iran at 2023 IHF World Championship

TEHRAN – Poland finished the 2023 IHF Men’s World Championship on a high, taking a 26-22 bittersweet win over Iran and finishing in the fourth in Group I of the main round in Krakow, while Iran came sixth in the group.

It will be the third time Poland finished outside the top 10, but it will not be their worst-ever result in the competition, which is still the 17th place at France 2017, when Poland also won three matches.

On the other hand, Iran earned a single win in six matches in the competition.

They will finish between the 22nd and 24th places – a new low after finishing 21st in the previous edition in 2015 – with five losses against European sides like France, Spain, Montenegro, Poland and Slovenia.

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

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

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

Iran U20 defeat Jordan: friendly

TEHRAN – Iran U20 football team defeated Jordan U20 2-1 in a friendly match.

Samad Marfavi’s boys had suffered a 2-0 loss at the Petra Stadium in Al-Hussein Youth City in their first match.

Milad Kor and Hossein Hajizadeh scored two goals in the second half.

The matches were held as part of the preparation for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2023, which will be held in March 2023 in Uzbekistan.

Iran are drawn in Group C along with Qatar, Vietnam, and Australia.

FIFA suspends Football Federation of Sri Lanka

TEHRAN – Football’s governing body FIFA has suspended Sri Lanka’s national federation, it said Sunday, a month after issuing it with a “red notice” over governance issues.

That warning came after the Ministry of Sports introduced a raft of regulations that reportedly compromised the autonomy and independence of national sports bodies, including the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL).

This month the FFSL held an election, which reportedly fell short of standards agreed upon with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), in which an ally of the sports minister became chair.

In a letter Sunday, FIFA said the FFSL was suspended “until further notice”.

The suspension prevents Sri Lanka — which is in the midst of a major economic crisis, blamed partly on corruption — from taking part in international competitions.

Sri Lanka’s men’s team are ranked 207th in the world, and the women’s 155th.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri visits Burkina Faso

TEHRAN – Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri has paid a visit to Burkina Faso and met with the African country’s prime minister, Apollinaire Joachim Kyélem de Tambèla.

In the meeting which took place during Bagheri’s day-long visit to Ouagadougou, the top Iranian diplomat extended to the premier of Burkina Faso an invitation from the Iranian first vice-president.

Bagheri also briefed Burkina Faso’s prime minister on the latest status of mutual relations as well as plans to further boost ties between the two countries, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Iran’s deputy foreign minister further touched upon the colonialist record of the West in the African continent, saying the independence day for African countries was the day when they managed to extricate themselves from the clutches of European governments that violate human rights.

The premier of Burkina Faso, in turn, welcomed the Iranian first vice-president’s

invitation, and emphasized the enhancement of reciprocal ties.

He referred to the status of Iran’s civilization, saying other nations are beholden to Iran for its civilization one way or another.

He said his country embraces the all-out promotion of relations with Iran.

The Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Political Affairs also met with Burkina Faso’s foreign minister discussing issues of mutual concern.

The two sides agreed to form a joint Iran-Burkina Faso commission and hold its first session in Ouagadougou soon.

The top Iranian official also met with Burkina Faso’s minister of commerce and industrial development where they exchanged views on ways of forging closer economic cooperation between the two countries, increasing mutual trade and holding exhibitions showcasing Iranian products.

The Burkinabe official welcomed the

New Iranian envoy meets Taliban FM

TEHRAN – The new Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, has met with Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul.

In this meeting, Kazemi Qomi consulted with this senior Taliban official about the all-round expansion of relations and Iran’s water share from the Hirmand river.

The foreign minister of the

Taliban has also emphasized on removing the technical obstacles and measures that prevent the waste of Hirmand water.

Kazemi Qomi has officially started his mission in Afghanistan as the new ambassador of Iran in Kabul this Saturday.

Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held a phone conversation with Amir Khan Muttaqi.

In this call, Amir Abdollahian condemned a terrorist attack in Kabul that left a large number of the staffers of Afghanistan’s Foreign Ministry dead or injured.

Amir Abdollahian condoled with the acting Afghan foreign minister, the ministry’s staffers and their families, and wished swift recovery for the injured.

The Iranian foreign minister said the terror attack outside the

Beekeepers concerned about denial of legal ownership of honey beehives



TEHRAN- The beekeepers are concerned about the denial of legal ownership of honey beehives, IRIB reported.

As reported, following the concern of the beekeepers about the new notification of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC) regarding their legal ownership of the beehives, Touraj Saremi, the board chairman of the Fund to Support Development of Beekeeping Industry, said that the ownership of honey beehives is under investigation.

According to the new announcement from the mentioned organization to the beekeepers, they cannot have legal ownership of the hives and must only have real ownership, which has caused many concerns for the beekeepers of the country and confused them about the ownership of the beehives.

Based on this, the board chairman of the Fund to Support Development of Beekeeping Industry said about this instruction and the new notification of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives regarding the necessity of the real ownership of the beehives: "Every beekeeper has a birth and beekeeping certificate and notebook, and that identifies his identity."

"Even now, we have predicted that the physical notebook will become an electronic birth certificate like other permits in the electronic government structure. But I am not aware of this decision as to what the ownership should be, and at least this letter has not been sent to the Department of Livestock Affairs", Saremi added.

As announced by an official with Agriculture Ministry, the honey consumption per capita in Iran is one of the highest ones in the world, because the consumption per capita in the world is about 500 grams, while in Iran it is more than one kilogram.

Hossein Damavandi-Nejad, the deputy

minister for livestock products, said, "The production of 120 million tons of agricultural products in the country and standing at the eighth place in the world in this field, has the footprints of honey bees in it, and some products in gardens and farms are up to 100 percent dependent on bees and without bees they will not be able to pollinate by wind and other insects".

"In some countries, the gardener must pay up to 100 dollars to the beekeeper for the beekeeper to establish his bee colony in the garden for a while, but in our country, in addition to the gardener taking a fee from the beekeeper for establishing the colony, with some unannounced pesticides spraying, they bring damages to beekeepers", he lamented.

Based on the data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Iran is the third-largest producer of honey in the world.

Last August, Saremi had said the country's annual honey production is expected to reach 115,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (ends on March 20).

He noted that Agriculture Ministry has defined a five-year development plan to reform the structure of the country's apiaries and increase the quantity and quality of honey production during the Iranian calendar year 1401 to 1405 (begins in March 2026).

"The implementation of this program requires the necessary support for providing inputs, implementing educational-training programs, and providing facilities to beekeepers. It is also required to provide apiaries with insurance coverage to reduce the risks and to ensure sustainable production," he said.

The official noted that the ministry is also pursuing opening a credit line to be able to meet part of the needs of producers in this sector within the framework of rules and regulations.

Iranian beekeepers managed to produce 112,000 tons of honey in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Due to the high quality of Iranian honey, the product is exported to many countries including China, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, and Lebanon.



Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

combating the financing of terrorism laws (AML/CFT) are classified into those laws that lead to the correctness of the wrong procedures, reduction of corruption in executive/non-executive bodies, as well as decreasing in the number of judicial cases.

In this vein, the head of the Judiciary ordered the General Inspection Organization to take the appropriate measures to identify the bodies that have not fully fulfilled their duties in the AML/CFT area.

Judiciary, IRFIU heads meet to discuss AML/CFT matters

TEHRAN- According to the IRFIU, Hujjat al-Islam Wal-Muslimeen Mohseni Eje'i, the head of the Judiciary, and Mr. Khani, the Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit of the I.R. Iran, had a mutual meeting on January 2023.

The purpose of this meeting was to eliminate some identified weaknesses in the process of implementation of Anti-Money Laundering laws and regulations (AML). During this meeting, both sides agreed that Anti-money laundering and

Iran raised to 4th place among top OPEC producers in December: IEA

from page 1 ▶ Energy consultant SVB International said Iran's crude exports in December averaged 1.137 million barrels per day, up 42,000 bpd from November and the highest 2022 figure SVB has reported based on estimates given earlier.

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

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

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

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



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

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

"Most of these shipments found home in Shandong, where

independent refiners have turned to discounted grades since the second half of 2022 amid sluggish domestic demand and depressed refining margins," the company said.

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

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

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

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

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

Commodities worth over \$3b traded at IME in a month

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar month Dey (ended on January 20), 8,776,034 tons of commodities worth over \$3 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 1,589,743 tons of commodities valued at more than \$911 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 377,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 508,989 tons of bitumen, 383,683 tons of polymeric products, 144,560 tons of chemicals, 129,100 tons of lube cut, 20,535 tons of sulfur, 21,552 tons of oil, 6,524 tons of petroleum products, 560 tons of insulation and 740 tons of feedstocks.

Moreover, the exchange saw trade of 7,017,408 tons of commodities and 28,455 vehicles worth more than \$2 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.



Items traded on this floor included 4,071,313 tons of cement, 1,173,000 tons of iron ore, 1,483,512 tons of steel, 262,075 tons of zinc, 69,325 tons of aluminum, 42,000 tons of sponge iron, 30,178 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of coke, 800 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 550 tons of lead, 42 tons of precious metals concentrate and 45 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 168,882 tons of commodities

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile

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

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

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

Iran's top 100 companies honored



32 main indicators, including sales, added value, number of employees, assets, productivity, exports, etc.

TEHRAN - Iran's top 100 companies and firms were introduced and rewarded in a ceremony held on Monday, IRIB reported.

Selected by the Iran Industrial Management Institute (IMI), the mentioned companies were honored in the 25th edition of IMI's annual ranking conference (IMI-100).

The nominees, including 50 knowledge-based companies, have been assessed based on

As reported, the event was attended by representatives of the selected companies as well as senior officials including Head of Industrial Management Institute Abolfazl Kiani-Bakhtiari.

Also, on Monday, a portal, dubbed "Taraz" was unveiled by Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi which is designed for evaluating and rewarding law-abiding and exemplary companies.

The unveiling ceremony

was also attended by Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvani-Far and Head of the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) Davoud Manzour.

Speaking at the ceremony, Khandouzi said the 13th government has put facilitating production and encouraging the productive sector on its agenda, and this issue is always emphasized by the president.

Iraqi trade delegation visits Iran to explore co-op opportunities

TEHRAN - A delegation comprised of businessmen from Iraq's Kurdistan region and Najaf Chamber of Commerce visited Iran and attended a business forum on Monday to explore cooperation opportunities with their Iranian counterparts.

As reported by the portal of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and

Agriculture (ICCIMA), in the forum, which was organized by the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, the two sides discussed ways of strengthening the level of relations and creating new communication lines for the expansion of trade and investment.

The Iraqi delegation was comprised of the representatives of companies active in

a variety of areas including general trade, tourism and hotel management, textiles, steel, metal products, flour and wheat, poultry, foodstuff, plastic industry, and drinking water.

After capital Tehran, the delegation is scheduled to visit Khorramabad in Lorestan Province to assess the capacities of the province for mutual cooperation.

Inflation rate rises 1.3%

TEHRAN - The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on January 20, which marks the end of the tenth Iranian calendar month Dey, at 46.3 percent, rising 1.3 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the ninth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 51.3 percent in the tenth month, which means families have paid an average of 51.3 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in

that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 50.6 percent for the urban households, rising 2.7 percent from the previous month, and 54.9 percent for the rural households, increasing 3.5 percent from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar year

1400, at 40.2 percent.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 34.7 percent in the last month of the past year, which means families have paid an average of 34.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20 was 39.7 percent for urban households, and 42.8 percent for

rural households.

The point-to-point inflation rate was reported to be 34.5 percent for urban households and 35.8 percent for rural ones, according to the SCI.

The Statistical Center of Iran had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, 2021 (the end of the Iranian calendar year 1399) at 36.4 percent, rising 2.2 percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the preceding year.

From page 1 ► It adds to the record rising number of gun violence that have made the headlines over the past few years. Reports say a day in the United States where a mass shooting attack occurs is now more likely than a day without one.

The U.S. is the only country in the world where there are more firearms in the hands of the public than the number of citizens.

Over the years many of the mass shootings have occurred with the attackers using military style rifles.

This isn't the sole reason for the rise in mass shootings incidents, but it does reflect the culture of U.S. military adventurism and violence abroad. The results of which are being closely viewed back home, with Hollywood playing a major role with its vast war movies, which include Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Advocates of tighter gun control regulations say this is having a destructive role on teenagers and younger adults. Perhaps not surprisingly, there has been a rise in shooting attacks among these younger age levels.

U.S. police say they believe the gunman in the latest mass shooting used a semi-automatic weapon to murder and maim, adding that the rifle was likely to have been obtained illegally.

The United States was built on a culture of violence, fear and terror that began from its founding until this day. These tragic features are found today both inside the country and within its militaristic foreign policy.

But there are other factors at play as well.

Powerful gun lobby groups are transferring a lot of money from their bank accounts to the pockets of lawmakers in the U.S. Congress.

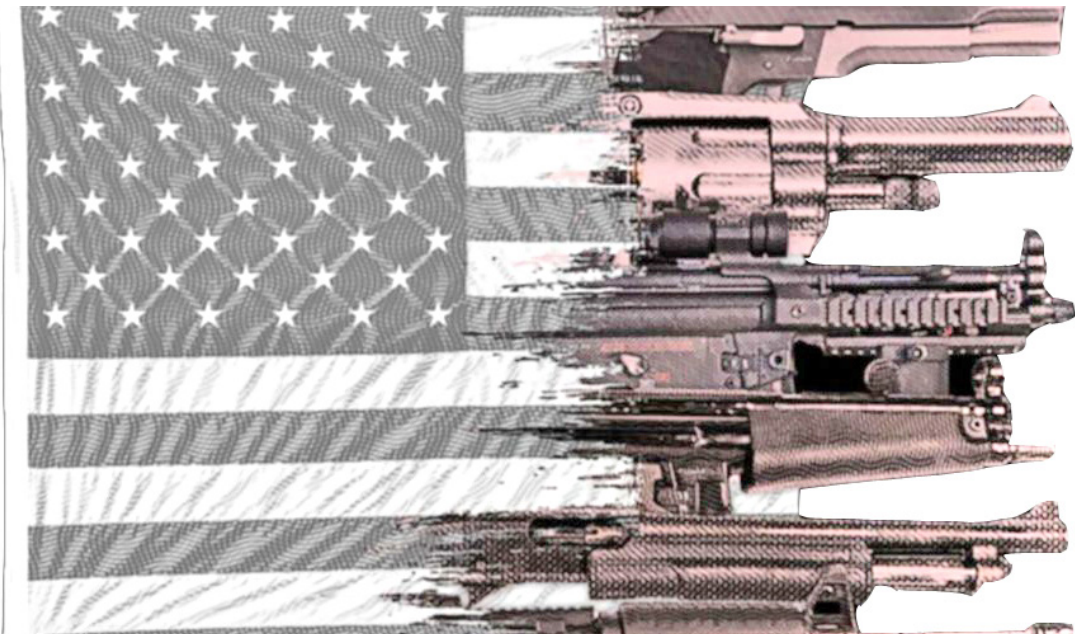
These lobby groups overwhelmingly support laws that would keep weapons in the hands of the American public.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) is the most powerful lobby group in the divisive issue of U.S. gun control. It plays the biggest role in Congress and is preventing any real legislation from being passed in Congress that can control the deadly shooting epidemic.

Despite the record number of shootings, these lobby groups or politicians are not being held accountable for their role in the gun-related violence.

This is a clear indication of just how insecure U.S. citizens feel in their own country amid a police force that discriminates between

Mass shooting reflects U.S. culture of violence and terror



black and white Americans.

The mass shooting has prompted another round of loud calls for tighter gun control laws, particularly over automatic and semi-automatic weapons, which are designed to kill, but these calls like the many before them, will fall on deaf ears.

The amount of weapons Washington sells internationally, under the pretext of bringing peace, has led to instability and chaos in different parts of the world. Add to that the many wars the U.S. has waged or instigated.

It is a matter of major debate that consecutive U.S. administrations have failed to protect or bring peace to their own citizens back home.

Last year, gun violence surged in many communities across America, as overall death rates from firearms rose to their highest level not seen in almost three decades. The year 2022 saw a near-record number of mass casualty shooting incidents, including several that had been motivated by hate speech online and by politicians.

The U.S. experienced more than 600 mass shootings in 2022. That is nearly double the number recorded four years ago when there were 336, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

Mass shootings are widely defined as an attack in which four or more people are shot or killed, not including the shooter.

While mass shootings grab news headlines, they account for a small percentage of the more

than 40,000 U.S. gun deaths recorded in 2022, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

The changing legal landscape for firearms comes as gun ownership continues to expand in the United States.

In 2020, American gun makers produced more than 11 million firearms. That is nearly three times the number that was manufactured in 2000, according to a report by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This is while a survey by the non-partisan Small Arms Survey estimated the U.S. had about 400 million firearms in 2018, which spelled the beginning of the grim statistic of more guns in America than the country's population.

As the number of firearms grows, the U.S. remains paralyzed by the highest rate of gun deaths among all the advanced and industrialized nations.

More American children and teenagers have been killed or injured by gunfire in 2022 than in any year since records began

Guns are the number one cause of death for children in America, surpassing roadside vehicle deaths.

To be precise there were 641 mass shootings in 2022 with 1,637 children and teenagers shot dead in the same year.

Here are just three of the mass killings that made the international and mainstream U.S. media headlines last year.

A supermarket in Buffalo with a

racist motive on 14 May killed ten people.

10 KILLED

A school in Uvalde on 24 May 21 KILLED, including 19 kids and 2 teachers.

A parade in Highland Park on 4 July

7 KILLED

Apart from these three horror and terrorist attacks, there were so many more that the public did not even hear about.

In just two weeks alone, an unprecedented number of over two thousand shootings took place across the country with 863 people killed and 1,736 others injured.

In essence, there are just a fraction of America's shootings that now make the headlines. The fact of the matter is that, such is the vast extent that gun violence is now flooding the country, many of the mass shootings do not receive the media attention anymore that they really deserve (with the possible exception of local media).

Shooting attacks is an American reality which now so often feels tragically normal for the U.S. establishment.

The other reality is that these attacks are terrorist attacks, especially considering more mass shootings have a racist motive behind them and aim to terrorize an entire community.

Yet, U.S. authorities are not labelling them as such in an attempt to portray the country as a safe and secure place for people to live and invest. Experts say the opposite is the truth.



believes that Russia is suffering high casualties and using its soldiers as "cannon fodder."

Reuters reported officials in Washington believe Kiev spent significant resources attempting to defend Bakhmut. The White House is currently

advising Ukraine not to launch any major counteroffensives to recapture the city. The Joe Biden administration is additionally advising Kiev that continuing to pour soldiers into defending Bakhmut is preventing Ukrainian forces from attacking Russians defending other cities.

Ukraine is seeking tanks from its NATO partners. However, many countries, including the US and Germany have resisted sending their modern tanks to Ukraine.

Bakhmut is located in the Donetsk region. The BND believes if Russia takes the city, it will open the door for additional gains. Bakhmut has seen fierce fighting for several months, but the intensity picked up last week. Russian forces have made some gains in the city.

(Source: antiwar.com)

Paris wants clarification from former colony

France is seeking clarification from Burkina Faso on the future of its military presence in the former colony, President Emmanuel Macron said on Sunday. State media in the African nation claimed the day before that the authorities in Ouagadougou want the French military contingent to leave.

Speaking to reporters, the French president called for "prudence," saying there is "great confusion" over the latest media report.

"We are waiting for clarifications

on the part of [President] Traore," Macron said, as quoted by Le Monde.

Last week, Agence d'Information du Burkina (AIB) reported that the Burkinabe leadership had denounced the agreement overseeing the presence of French troops in the African nation. Paris now has one month to withdraw its forces, according to the media.

There are currently 400 French special forces soldiers stationed in Burkina Faso as part of an effort to vanquish an Islamist insurgency

that has plagued the region since 2015.

However, many people in the country have grown increasingly frustrated with the French military presence, and a number of demonstrations have taken place in recent months. Protesters say the French forces are unable to protect civilians from the jihadists.

The latest demonstration took place on Friday in the capital, Ouagadougou, with hundreds of activists chanting anti-French slogans.

Earlier this month, Burkina Faso ordered the French ambassador to leave the country.

In November 2022, President Macron announced the end of the French-led anti-insurgent Operation Barkhane in the Sahel region, which includes Burkina Faso.

Paris withdrew its troops from neighboring Mali several months prior, as relations between the former colony and France deteriorated.

WORLD HEADLINES

Kuwait government resigns over disagreements with National Assembly

The Kuwaiti government submitted its resignation on Monday due to disagreements with the National Assembly, local media reported.

According to the Al Qabas newspaper, the decision was taken after the government refused to make any commitments to Kuwaiti National Assembly regarding popular laws.

Additionally, the government has upheld its position to return the reports of the Finance Committee to the committees without any obligations, and has withdrawn the two interpellations that were scheduled to be addressed to the Minister of Finance Abdul Wahhab Al Rashid and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Barak Al Shaitan during Tuesday's session.

This marks Kuwait's fifth collective government resignation in the two years.

Protests after Israeli threats to remove Palestinian village

Dozens of Palestinians have protested against threats made by top Israeli politicians to imminently carry out the forced displacement of the Palestinian Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem, home to at least 180 people.

The protest took place on Monday after far-right politician and Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir said he would push ahead with the village's forced removal and plans emerged of a visit to the site by far-right ministers, including Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

A number of politicians from the Israeli parliament's biggest party, Likud, eventually did gather near the village before later leaving.

Ben-Gvir on Saturday said the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "will not hold Jews to one legal standard and Arabs to another" after an illegal Jewish settlement outpost in the northern occupied West Bank was cleared by Israeli forces.

However, Palestinians have decried what they argue is the false equivalency between Khan al-Ahmar and Israeli settlements, which are illegal under international law.

"Since 1967, there have been military orders for demolishing homes, closed military zones and others, and then these areas are transformed into illegal settlements and nature reserves," Eid Jahalin, who described himself as a spokesperson for the village, said at Monday's protest.

"Our fate is to remain in this area," Jahalin argued. "Whoever thinks that it is just Khan al-Ahmar – there are demolitions in the Jordan Valley, demolitions in Masafer Yatta, in Jerusalem city – it is something constantly happening across all of Palestine."

The fate of Khan al-Ahmar has captured international attention for its years-long legal battle with Israeli authorities over its survival.

In September 2018, the Israeli Supreme Court greenlit the village's removal, leaving it open to being demolished at any time, but demolition plans have been put on hold several times since then.

The government has until February 1 to explain to the Supreme Court why the village has not been demolished yet and to put forward a plan.

Russian warship to join drills with China, South Africa navies

A Russian warship armed with hypersonic cruise weapons will take part in exercises with the Chinese and South African navies in February, according to Russia's state-owned TASS news agency.

The report on Monday was the first official mention of the participation by the Russian frigate Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Gorshkov.

The frigate is armed with Zircon missiles, which fly at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of more than 1,000km (620 miles).

The missiles form the centerpiece of Russia's hypersonic arsenal, along with the Avangard glide vehicle that entered combat duty in 2019.

"Admiral Gorshkov ... will go to the logistic support point in Syria's Tartus, and then take part in joint naval exercises with the Chinese and South African navies," TASS said in its report, citing an unidentified defence source.

The South African National Defence Force has said the drills will run from February 17-26 near the port cities of Durban and Richards Bay on South Africa's east coast.

It said on Thursday that the joint exercise aims "to strengthen the already flourishing relations between South Africa, Russia and China".

The exercise will be the second involving the three countries in South Africa, after a drill in 2019, the defence force added.

Kishida says Japan has to act on population drop

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida says Japan must take urgent steps to address the country's declining birth rate, and that it was "now or never" for the world's oldest society.

"Our nation is on the cusp of whether it can maintain its societal functions," Kishida said in a policy speech on Monday at the opening of this year's parliamentary session.

"It is now or never when it comes to policies regarding births and child-rearing – it is an issue that simply cannot wait any longer," he added.



Hand-carved bathhouse, a top tourist attraction in northwest Iran

From Page 1 ► The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not the only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities, but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the old times.



Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

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

Tourism, handicrafts school to open in Abarkuh

TEHRAN – A new school dedicated to tourism and handicrafts is scheduled to open in the ancient city of Abarkuh, central Yazd province, a local tourism chief has said.

The launch of such a school aims to promote handicrafts and traditional arts, as well as tourism, both of which are essential to the economic prosperity of the city, Javad Adel explained on Sunday.

In addition to handicrafts workshops, the school plans to provide foreign language training, hotel management and tourist attraction classes in the field of tourism, the official added.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. It teems with mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its

Ramsar tourist camps getting ready to host new year travelers

TEHRAN – Necessary arrangements for hosting travelers during Noruz (New Year holidays, starting March 21) are being made in tourist camps in Ramsar, northern Mazandaran province, Ramsar’s tourism chief has said.

Several camps are located at the entrance to Ramsar city, which can accommodate 5,000 people that make them an important part of the city’s tourism infrastructure, Nader Saharkhoz explained on Monday.

With these camps as a basis for creating a recreational environment, Ramsar will attract tourists by holding numerous events, festivals, and competitions throughout the year, the official added.

UNESCO sites at a glance

Antigua Guatemala Antigua, the capital of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, was founded in the early 16th century. Built 1,530.17 m above sea level in an earthquake-prone region, Antigua Guatemala, the capital of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, was founded in 1524 as Santiago de Guatemala. It was subsequently destroyed by fire caused by an uprising of the indigenous population, re-established in 1527 and entirely buried as a result of earthquakes and an avalanche in 1541. The third location, in the Valley of Panchoy or Pacán, was inaugurated in March 1543	and served for 230 years. It survived natural disasters of floods, volcanic eruptions and other serious tremors until 1773 when the Santa Marta earthquakes destroyed much of the town. At this point, authorities ordered the relocation of the capital to a safer location region, which became Guatemala City, the county's modern capital. Some residents stayed behind in the original town, however, which became referred to as “La Antigua Guatemala”. Antigua Guatemala was the cultural, economic, religious, political and educational centre for the entire region until the capital was moved. In the space of under three centuries, the city acquired a number of superb monuments.
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TEHRAN – Tourism directorate of Yazd has announced an initiative to launch a “bazaar museum” of gold in the ancient city registered as the national city of handmade personal ornamentations.

Every gold shop in Yazd [particularly the ones located in bazaar thoroughfares dedicated to gold and goldsmithing] will become a museum in a scheme that will be a prelude to a possible registration of Yazd as a world city of handmade jewelry, a local tourism official said on Monday.

“Some two years ago, Yazd was recognized as the national city of gold and jewelry, because not only gold and jewelry are a part of the business environment and the economy of Yazd, but also it shapes part of its culture and identity,” Abdolmajid Arabi said.

One of the requirements for the [possible] world registration of Yazd is the creation of museums related to gold and jewelry, the official explained.

Goldsmithing in Yazd is mainly a paternal heritage and father’s job. Many Yazdi goldsmiths have kept the tools and equipment related to this art from the past, which can be displayed for those interested, he said.

Letters and documents related to jewelry, and photos of old hand goldsmiths are among other items to be displayed in museums, the official said.

For centuries, Yazd goldsmiths, which have taken on the color and



Yazd to launch ‘bazaar museum’ of gold

smell of the ancient industry today, still have a lot to say.

In Yazd, where all types of jewelry are created into various forms and shapes using molding, metal casting, and wax removal, the art of goldsmithing and making jewels has a long history.

In Yazd, where all types of jewelry

are created into various forms and shapes using molding, metal casting, and wax removal, the art of goldsmithing and making jewels has a long history.

Yazdi goldsmiths have long been renowned for their unique artistic talent, impeccable taste, and patience when creating jewelry. Goldsmiths

Fitur 2023: Persepolis, Hafezieh main themes reflected by Iran pavilion

TEHRAN – Iran’s pavilion at Fitur 2023 installed mockups of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis and Hafezieh, where illustrious Persian poet Hafez is laid to rest, as its main themes during the five-day event that came to an end on January 22 in Madrid.

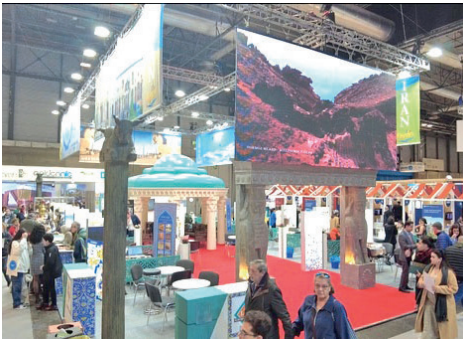
Covering 300 square meters, the pavilion staged cultural evenings, B2B meetings, folk music performances, live crafts and calligraphy workshops, souvenirs, and handicraft exhibits among the programs to promote Iran’s tourism industry.

Furthermore, it showcased 3D films of historical monuments and tourism destinations using virtual reality cameras and turned the spotlight on Persian cuisines

while distributing special publications and brochures.

The Madrid fair is the global meeting place for industry professionals and the premier trade show for destinations and destination markets in Latin America. It is also the largest event in Spain related to the tourism industry, with tens of thousands of participants from all over the world, and related to innovation and the promotion of new tourist segments, technological leadership in the management of tourism, and knowledge transfer tools.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums,



churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Chamshir Dam: archaeologist calls for further excavations

TEHRAN – The excavation on a caravanserai at an ancient site at the basin of the newly constructed Chamshir Dam in southwest Iran needs to be resumed, an Iranian archaeologist has said.

It has not been explored enough in some areas, and not enough information has been extracted, ILNA quoted Noruz Rajabi as saying on Monday.

One of these areas is a vast complex, probably a caravanserai on the route from Khuzestan to the Fars region at the beginning of the Islamic era, he added.

The complex is a square towered building measuring 50 x 50 meters and a large collection of unknown architectural remains around it which need to be explored further, he noted.

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

Islamic eras.

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

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

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

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

Boyerahmad province.

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

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

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

enjoy a high status among other traditional professions due to their integrity and adherence to moral principles.

The historical architecture of Yazd was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2017. Almost all travelers describe the oasis as a wonderful place to stay or a “don’t miss” destination.

It is a tangible example of how to use the scarce resources in the desert to your advantage in order to survive. The qanat system transports water to the city. Every neighborhood in the city is situated on a qanat and has a communal hub.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

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

Yazd boasts a rich cultural heritage that includes the garden of Dolat-Abad, qanat systems, traditional homes, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, and Zoroastrian temples, to name a few. The followers of Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism coexist peacefully in the city.

Massive cultural heritage museum under construction in Jiroft

TEHRAN – Construction work is underway to establish a vast cultural heritage museum in Jiroft, known as an ancient cradle of civilization in southern Iran.

To complete the first phase of the Jiroft Regional Museum, the Kerman Tourism Directorate has allotted approximately 1.3 trillion rials (\$3.2 million), the tourism chief of Kerman province has said.

The first phase of the 12-acre Jiroft Regional Museum will be made up of 4,000 square meters of galleries and treasure troves, Fereydoun Fa’ali said.

Jiroft, a fertile plain in the Kerman province, is a magnificent center of a civilization that dates to the Early Bronze Age (late third millennium BC). Due to geological reasons, tourists and archaeologists have largely been more interested in Mesopotamia, which is located some 1,000 km away.

Mountains rising to a height of about 4,000 meters are on three sides of Jiroft. The Jiroft discoveries are viewed as evidence of a civilization as great as Sumer and prehistoric Mesopotamia by many Iranian and foreign experts.

Numerous rounds of severe flooding along the Halil River in the very early 21st century removed the topsoil from thousands of previously undiscovered tombs and resulted in the discovery of numerous artifacts thought by archeologists to date from the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

Surprisingly, the archaeologists were familiar with the chlorite vases they had discovered in Jiroft. From the Euphrates to the Indus, as far north as the Amu Darya and as far south as Tarut Island, on the Persian Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia, chlorite vessels similar to the breathtaking examples discovered at Jiroft

had been discovered.

The primary Jiroft site consists of two mounds a couple of kilometers apart, called Konar Sandal A and B, and measuring 13 and 21 meters high, respectively. It was at Konar Sandal B that the archeologists dug out the seal impressions bearing writing.

So far, the archeologists have excavated around nine vertical meters of Konar Sandal B, discovering vestiges of a monumental, two-story, windowed citadel whose base covers nearly 13.5 hectares (33 acres). This imposing edifice once housed the city’s chief administrative center and perhaps a temple and a royal palace.

Finding the structure’s façade was difficult enough, but locating an entrance took the team weeks of digging through clay packed hard by millennia of rain-wash.

From page 1 ► “Some 4,200 years ago, there was an Early Bronze Age community in Konar Sandal near Jiroft. Agriculture thrived, and an urban complex has been partly excavated at the site. However, something triggered the collapse of this highly developed Bronze Age community, and we were interested in what this could have been,” says Joyanto Routh, Professor at the Department for Thematic Studies at Linköping University, who led the study published in the Quaternary Science Reviews.

They examined sediments in a 2.5-meter-long peat core containing layer upon layer of material deposited over thousands of years.

The peat layers were dated using the Carbon-14 method. The researchers also conducted analyses of trace elements, pollen, and biomarkers and combined this with the existing archeological data to find out what plants and animals inhabited the area during different periods.

In the absence of historical records, tracing these signals could provide clues to whether people lived there, whether they cultivated anything, and, if so, what.

With this information, the researchers could reconstruct whether the climate was hot or cold, wet or dry. During wet periods, people engaged more in agriculture, which fed the population, and the community thrived.

People switched to a nomadic lifestyle in dry periods and abandoned the settlement but returned when favorable conditions resumed.



Iranian society vulnerable to climate change for over 4,000 years: study

The researchers found that the area had experienced intermittent wet and dry periods. The first pollen record from Cerealia-type plants indicates that intensive agricultural practices began some 3,900 to 3,700 years ago. This period coincides with a relatively moist climate in the Jiroft Valley.

In contrast, 3,300 to 2,900 years ago, the weather in the valley was very dry and windy. Cerealia-type pollen levels were very low, indicating that agriculture had almost ceased.

The driest conditions in the Jiroft Valley, some 3,200 years ago,

coincided with the collapse of the Late Bronze Age settlement in Konar Sandal.

Around 600 years later, the Persian Empires emerged, with two of the most powerful kingdoms in Eurasian history: the Achaemenid and Sasanian Empires, which are almost synchronous with the two wettest periods in the sediment record.

“We can establish from our peat core that when the Achaemenid and Sasanian Empires were at their peak, agriculture was thriving and provisions were high,” says Joyanto Routh.

According to Joyanto Routh, the climate has always played an essential role in West Asia, something that is not always taken into the equation.

“Archaeologists suggest that these empires fell due to weak succession, pestilence, and political and military expansion. They generally overlook climate as a driving factor behind these changes. We don’t deny that the arguments stated by archaeologists are important. However, you have to consider that suddenly, an agricultural community could no longer grow cereals because the monsoon pattern had shifted – there was an acute scarcity of water. This had cascading effects that led to the decentralization of power and eventually the demise or abandonment of many settlements in the region,” says Joyanto Routh.

Although cautious about linking the success of these empires to fluctuations in climate, the researchers argue that these correlations highlight the importance of combining detailed evidence of climate change with archaeological and historical contexts to be able to explore the interplay between various factors that may have impacted earlier civilizations.

The study was funded by the Swedish Research Council. The researchers included scholars from Linköping University (Sweden), the Research Institute for Earth Sciences (Iran), Marseilles Univ (France), the University of Tehran (Iran), and the Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology (Germany).

More than 600 earthquakes occur in Iran in a month

TEHRAN – A total of 604 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month that ended on January 20, according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Of the total quakes, 15 had a magnitude of more than 4 on the Richter scale, the largest of which occurred on January 18 with a magnitude of 5.4 in the northwestern city of Khoy, ISNA reported.

Statistically, 524 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 65 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, 13 earthquakes with magnitudes between 4 and 5, and 2 earthquakes with magnitudes between 5 and 6 have occurred in the country.

Among the provinces of the country, West Azarbaijan with 89 earthquakes, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, and Semnan with 84, 79, and 78 earthquakes, respectively, recorded the highest number of earthquakes in the country.

Meanwhile, seven earthquakes were also recorded in Tehran province, the largest of which was near Firouzkuh with a magnitude of 2.7 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

Iran has entered a decade of earthquakes since the [Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), as the Iranian plateau is shrinking by 30 millimeters per year, Mehdi Zare, professor of engineering seismology at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIIES), has said.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran,



according to Zare.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslide, fire following an earthquake, etc.

On the other hand, Tehran has an over 8,300,000 nighttime population with a mixture of old non-resistant structures as well as modern high-rise buildings that affect the vulnerability of this city.

Precipitations decline by 24% year on year



Considering that Iran is in the third consecutive year of drought, this year’s precipitation has decreased by 23.7 millimeters, equivalent to 24.2 percent, even compared to last year, which was very low.

According to the statistics of the Meteorological Organization, the amount of precipitation in a water year should reach 236.9 millimeters, and currently, the volume of precipitation has met

only 31.3 percent of the required volume.

Since the beginning of winter, all six main catchments of the country are still facing a decrease in precipitations between 6 millimeters and 62 millimeters compared to normal conditions.

The largest deficit of precipitation is related to the “Caspian Sea” catchment area with about 62 millimeters and the lowest deficit with about 6 millimeters belongs to the “Persian Gulf and Oman Sea” catchment area.

Drought in cold season

No end to the drought is in sight over the cold season, according to a winter forecast by Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management.

A temperature higher than the normal of the

Razi research festival on medical sciences held

From page 1 ► “We should maintain and improve the country’s status in the field of science,” he stressed.

“In addition to the fact that more than 70 percent of people in the country were vaccinated against the coronavirus, Iranian specialists managed to produce six vaccines so that we are no longer importing vaccines.”

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi also addressed the opening ceremony of the festival. He

pointed to the greatest achievements of the Islamic Revolution in the field of health, saying that according to the World Health Organization, Iran is among the top countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in all health indicators.

“We owe the Islamic Revolution the increase in life expectancy, the decrease in the deaths of pregnant mothers and infants, and the access of people to health services in all parts of the country, and we have reached self-sufficiency in the field of health,” he highlighted.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 49

The area is characterised by extremely high temperatures. Frosts are rare. Run-off is at its maximum in late winter, when discharge of the Karun River may increase tenfold over late summer levels.

Hydrological values

The delta region is fed by overflow channels from the Karun River, seepage, irrigation canals, and to a lesser extent by local rainfall and run-off. The water level is higher following spring floods, but drains into the Persian Gulf. The maximum water depth is 1 m., the average is very variable.

Ecological features

The extensive seasonal freshwater marshes in the north are dominated by *Schoenoplectus* sp., and there are only small patches of reeds and reedmace.

The brackish and saline areas further south are dominated by glasswort and other salt marsh species, with patches of tamarisk scrub on higher grounds.

The wetland is bordered by barren flats to the east, northwest and north, and in the north there are also some sedge marshes that almost dry out during summer. To the northeast there is a large area of rice fields, date gardens and settlements.

Noteworthy flora

The only flora mentioned are some reeds *Phragmites australis* and reedmace *Typha* sp., extensive *Schoenoplectus* dominated areas in the freshwater marshes in the north, and fresh to brackish sedge marshes dominated by *Scirpus* also in the north.

Noteworthy fauna

Shadegan Marshes and the mudflats of Khor-al Amaya and Khor-Musa are an extremely important wintering habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, especially dabbling ducks, and also a very important breeding and staging area for various species.

The Shadegan Marshes are the most important site in the world for marbled teal (*Marmarionetta angustirostris*), regularly supporting 10,000–20,000 in winter, which is 30–60% of the world population.

A few pairs probably breed. Other noteworthy concentrations of wintering waterfowl have included 1,340 white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), 2,080 greylag goose (*Anser anser*), in excess of 500,000 dabbling ducks (mainly common teal *Anas crecca* and northern pintail *Anas acuta*), and over 15,000 gulls (mainly black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* and slender-billed gull *L. genei*).

The wetland is also an important wintering habitat for Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, with at least 75 birds present.

The mudflats at the head of the Persian Gulf hold many thousands of shorebirds in winter, including large numbers of Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and common redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

Breeding waterfowl include various herons and egrets, a few pairs of ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), various shorebirds, 40–800 pairs of *Larus genei* and colonies of five species of terns.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

TEHRAN – According to the data released by the Meteorological Organization of Iran, precipitations in the country have decreased by 24.2 percent in the current water year that started September 23 compared to last year.

The volume of precipitations also declined by 17.9 percent compared to the long term, ISNA reported.

Six main catchment areas have also suffered from low rainfall.

From the beginning of the current water year to the end of the first month of winter (January 20), the country has received about 74.3 millimeters of precipitation, compared to about 90.5 millimeters in the long term.

So, the precipitation has decreased by about 16.2 millimeters, equivalent to 17.9 percent.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries worldwide

Some 105 medical equipment produced by 23 Iranian companies are exported to 55 countries across the world, Reza Masaeli, an advisor to the health minister said on Sunday.

“Currently, a total of 280,000 medical equipment is produced in the country,” Fars quoted Masaeli as saying.

“In recent years, the production of medical equipment in Iran has increased by 9 percent,” he added.

One of the main strategies of the Health Ministry is to boost exports, he said, adding that Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Croatia.

So far, a series of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been signed for export of medical equipment to various countries, including Brazil, Iraq and Oman, Masaeli stated.

تجهيزات پزشکی ایرانی به ۵۵ کشور دنیا صادر می شود

مشاور وزیر بهداشت گفت: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ شرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود. به گزارش گروه اجتماعی خبرگزاری فارس، رضا مسائلی، اظهار داشت: در کشور بیش از ۲۸۰ هزار قلم تجهیزات پزشکی در کشور وجود دارد و در سال های اخیر، تولیدات تجهیزات پزشکی در جمهوری اسلامی ایران، ۹ درصد افزایش داشته است.

وی توجه به صادرات را یکی از مهمترین راهبردهای اساسی وزارت بهداشت در راستای حمایت از تولیدات داخلی دانست و افزود: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ شرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.



Harvesting daffodils in northern Iran

At a distance of 3 kilometers north of Azadshahr city, northern Golestan province, there is a daffodil garden with an area of 10 hectares, where about 10 people harvest 25 thousand flowers every day.

In Persian culture and literature, the daffodil symbolizes the eye, usually the eye of the beloved.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be not like the hypocrite who, when he talks, tells lies; when he gives a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he proves dishonest.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:16 Evening: 17:42 Dawn: 5:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:09 (tomorrow)

Adab in Iran

Part 2

Refinement should be observed in the wording as well as the content of speech. Kaykavus thinks it should be observed even in the most intimate human situations.

Sadi makes the same point in a story in chapter 8 of his Golestan: “I had a sore underneath my shirt. The late lamented shaikh asked me every day how it was, but never asked me where it was.”

As has been said, the essential characteristic of perfect refinement is regard for moderation or choice of the “golden mean” in conduct, as evidenced by the Shahnameh and certain Pahlavi and Persian books.

In the Pahlavi text entitled Ayadgar i Wuzurgmihr, the principle of the middle way (payman-menishnih) is extolled and extremism (frehbut-menishnih) is reviled.

The word payman was used in Pahlavi with the meanings of contract, measure, and moderation, but in Persian it has kept only the first meaning and is almost never used with the other two meanings.

As already noted, the Persian equivalent of the Pahlavi payman is andazeh. The middle way should be followed and proper proportion should be maintained in all the activities of life.

Speakers ought to use measured and moderate language, and owners of wealth ought to practice measured expenditure, because extravagance and parsimony are both vile.

Even in charity, proportion should be maintained, and even when we seek God’s help, our prayers should be measured. In the words of Abu Shakur Balkhi, the bezoar stone (antidote) in excess of the proper proportion becomes poison.

Similarly, efforts should be measured, because excess effort wears out the body, particularly when fortune is not favorable.

According to the Shahnameh, the course of a person’s life is determined by the conjunction of his effort (kushesh) and his fortune (bakht): Anushiravan asks Bozorgmehr whether greatness results from effort or fortune, and Bozorgmehr answers that the two are coupled like body and soul; effort cannot achieve greatness without the assistance of fortune.

Proper proportion in diet, according to the Shahnameh, is to eat little. Another passage advises not to take food when the stomach is full, and to stop eating when some appetite still remains.

A similar point is made by Ebn al-Moqaffa’ when he states in his al-Adab al-kabir that the essential requisite for keeping the body sound is to impose only light burdens of food, drink, and seminal emission on it.

As regards sexual relations with women, the Shahnameh also often mentions the harmfulness of excess, adding that the purpose should be the perpetuation of the species.

On the subject of choosing a wife, the middle way is again recommended in the literature; she should be neither too elderly nor too young, neither too tall nor too short, neither too fat nor too slim.

Moderation in wine drinking is frequently enjoined in both the Pahlavi and the Persian texts. The Shahnameh states that wine should be taken to induce happiness, not drunkenness.

In the Pahlavi text Minug i xra d, the advantages of moderation and the evils of excess in wine drinking are the subject of detailed disquisitions which show remarkable correspondence with the themes of the chapter on wine in the Persian Noruznameh.

Hafez, in one of his ghazals likewise calls for moderation in wine drinking. In the Shahnameh best exposition of the advantages of such moderation and the evils of intemperance is found in the story of Kabruy and the young shoemaker. In terms consistent with the Shahnameh’s maxims, the Qabusnameh argues against overeating and overdrinking.

The categories of adab: Aba Es’haq Hosri (d. 1061), the compiler of the Arabic anthology Kitab zahr al-aadaab, quotes a saying of the vizier Hasan ibn Sahl (d. 850) about the categories of adab: “There are ten categories of adab. Three are shahrajani, three are anishervani, three are Arabian, and one is superior to the others. The shahrajani are lute playing, chess playing, and spearmanship; the anushervani are medicine, handasa (geometry and architecture), and horsemanship; the Arabian are poetry, genealogy, and historiography. The category superior to all others is the recitation of pieces of story and fable at social gatherings.”

This organization points to the Iranian origin of some aspects of adab, though it cannot be taken to mean that Sassanid adab consisted of only the six categories which were supplemented in the Islamic period by four more categories, including three from specifically Arab culture.

As for the tenth and professedly highest category, its Iranian origin is shown by the range and renown of the Iranian heritage of narrative literature.

Thus Ebn al-Nadim in his Fehrest, completed in 987-88, takes it for granted that the first storytellers were the early inhabitants of Fars: “After the stories of the early Persians had passed to the Arsacids and the Sassanids, the Arabs translated them into their own language and then began to compose similar stories themselves.”

As to poetry, although only a few fragments of Pahlavi verse have come down to us, and no completely satisfactory conclusions have yet been reached concerning some of them, there can be no doubt that Pahlavi literature was rich in poetry.

In the tripartite art of minstrelsy (khonyagari), which endured in its traditional Sassanid form throughout the early Islamic centuries, the elements of music, singing, and poetry were inseparable.

In regard to genealogy, it is clear from the Pahlavi books and the Shahnameh that the Iranians took pride in remembering and recording their ancestors.

There is also ample evidence that the Iranians maintained this custom in the early Islamic period. Masudi included in his lost Kitab akhbar al-zaman a detailed list of Iranian generals, sages (hakims), ascetics, governors (marzbans), and kings, with their family trees, which he had compiled from Iranian sources, and compared the Iranian interest in genealogy with that of the Qahtani and Nezari Arabs.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

“Motherless”, “Life & Life” win top awards at Dhaka film festival

From Page 1 ► IRIMAGE handles the international sales of the film starring Amir Aqai, Mitra Hajjar and Pejman Jamshidi.

Also written by Qavitan, “Life & Life” follows a teacher who is concerned about the students who have not attended online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. She decides to visit them. She buckles her four-year-old daughter into the car and takes off for the students’ houses. Her goal for this trip is to look in on the students, but she has another purpose. She tells her daughter about her own life, and the girl begins to understand the world as she meets other people.

Written by Anik Dutta, “The Undefeated” from India won the award for best screenplay.

This film directed by Anik Dutta is a tribute to master filmmaker Satyajit Ray in his birth centenary and it’s inspired by the story behind the making of Ray’s iconic film “Pather Panchali”.

The award for best actor went to Ikkei Watanabe for his role in the Japanese film “Marriage Counselor” by Naoki Maeda.

Pardis Purabedini and Mitra Hajjar act in a scene from “Motherless”.

Ketaki Narayan was picked as best actress for her role in “Hawk’s Muffin” by Indian director Krishnendu Kalesh.

The best children’s film Badal Rahman award was given to “Martin and the Magical Forest”, a

co-production from Czech, Slovakia and Germany by Petr Oukropec.

In the Women Filmmakers Section, “Listen” by Maria Douza from Greece was selected as best feature film.

In this film, financial upheaval

forces Valmira, a 16-year-old deaf girl, to leave her progressive Athens school and return to her father’s struggling island where she is confronted by the danger of prejudice and intolerance, most shockingly — her own.

Iran’s Kanoon donates copyrights of 3 publications to Nicaragua

A combination photo shows the front covers of the publications whose copyrights were donated by Kanoon to Nicaragua.

TEHRAN – Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon has donated the copyrights for the Spanish translation of three of its publications to Nicaragua.

“The Ice Who Loved the Sun”, “The Eleventh Step” and “Farewell, Old Raccoon” have previously been published in several languages.

The donation was made during Kanoon

director Hamed Alamati’s meeting with three Nicaraguan officials; Minister of Youth Lucien Guevara, Minister of Family Johana Vanessa Flores Jiménez and Minister of Education Lilliam Esperanza Herrera, Kanoon announced on Sunday.

The meeting was organized on the sidelines of the First International Congress for Women of Influence held last Friday.

Written by Reza Mozuni, “The Ice that Fell in Love with the Sun” tells the story of a block of ice that falls in love with the sun. Even though day by day, the ice melts and loses life, it wants nothing more than to continue contemplating the sun.

What this story teaches us is the transformational power of love. The ice, had not met its beloved, would have remained forever in its state. However, by doing so, its love will lead it to lose its current condition and transform it into something else, rather than die, because love is what makes our souls reach eternity.

The El Faro International Publishing House

Robert Walser’s novel “The Tanners” appears in Persian

TEHRAN – “The Tanners” by Swiss writer Robert Walser has been published in Persian by Now.

First published in 1907, the novel was translated into Persian by Ali Abdollahi.

“The Tanners”, Walser’s amazing novel of twenty chapters, is now presented in English for the very first time, by the award-winning translator Susan Bernofsky.

Three brothers and a sister comprise the Tanner family—Simon, Kaspar, Klaus and Hedwig: their wanderings, meetings, separations, quarrels, romances, employment and lack

A combination photo shows Robert Walser and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novel “The Tanners”.

of employment over the course of a year or two are the threads from which Walser weaves

his airy, strange and brightly gorgeous fabric.

“Walser’s lightness is lighter than light,” as Tom Whalen said in Bookforum, “Buoyant up to and beyond belief, terrifyingly light.”

Walser, admired greatly by Kafka, Musil and Walter Benjamin, is a radiantly original author.

He has been acclaimed as “unforgettable, heart-rending” (J.M. Coetzee), “a bewitched genius” (Newsweek) and “a major, truly wonderful, heart-breaking writer” (Susan Sontag).

Considering Walser’s “perfect and serene oddity,” Michael Hofmann in The London Review

The Man Who Had No Day-off

An interview with Mohsen Momeni

“The Man Who Had No Day-off” describes the life of Muhammad Hussain Farrokhejad, a seminary student who was also a media professor and activist in Zionism studies, who passed away in a car accident with his family. This book has been written by Mohsen Momeni.

*** How writing this book was suggested to you?**

After the death of Professor Farrokhejad on the night of Eid al-Adha, I was very sad, his death was really tragic to all of us, and usually, in such incidents, emotional aspects unconsciously prevail over other aspects. After analyzing social media that morning through late that night, I discovered contradictory news and information about him, most of which were inaccurate and false!

That night, I thought to myself that to remove the false information, show different aspects of his personality, as well as give a correct account of his scientific and practical approach, it would be good to write and publish my memories of him.

So, I interviewed a lot of people and some

of them wrote their memories and sent them to me until finally, it became a good collection of memories. I have always believed that the best way to understand different aspects of a person’s personality is to record memories from him.

*** What contents do the chapters of the book contain? Please explain a little about it.**

Different contents make up the chapters of the book. The first part is the preface written by the author.

After that, a hadith from Imam Ali (a.s.) describes the qualities of the brotherhood of faith, which following Farrokhejad’s personality.

The next part is a brief resume of the professor’s scientific and executive activities, as well as a list of his books and articles.

Moreover, the main text of the book is the next section, which contains 72 memories. Finally, the book concludes with some condolence letters in an appendix and some pictures.

*** Professor Farrokhejad’s communication and scientific ability in the seminary and in the media had made him a expert in both fields.**

What was the strategic importance of the media in his view?

In my opinion, he was a great strategist. In addition to being an expert in fundamentals and theoretical topics, he was also an expert in the designing field, and cyber operations. In any situation, he was ready to serve wherever his presence was needed. A very scientific and very practical person, he also had a great deal of contact with nationalities from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.