

# TEHRAN TIMES

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# Iran Stands by Syria in Reconstruction Period: Raisi

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## More nations plan to ditch U.S. dollar

TEHRAN – Brazil and Argentina are planning on a common currency for the region in a bid to distance themselves from the U.S. dollar.

Washington has been using its currency as a weapon to advance its own hegemony around the world.

As a result, many civilian populations have suffered from unilateral American sanctions imposed on countries who are independent or have taken the course toward independence.

In a joint letter, the new Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said they wanted to “advance discussions on a common South American currency” to be used for financial and trade flows.

President Lula, who has made Buenos Aires his first foreign trip since taking office, says that early talks are focused on developing a shared unit of value for bilateral trade to reduce reliance on dollar.

Under the plan, the Brazilian currency (the real) as well as the Argentine currency (the peso), for example, would continue to exist, with the new tender aimed at trade transactions between different Latin American countries. ► Page 5

## Borrell says JCPOA not ‘dead’ but no progress in talks

TEHRAN- Josep Borrell, the head of foreign policy for the EU, stated on Monday that although there has been no progress in negotiations to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal is not “dead.”

Borrell made the comments while speaking with media in Brussels on the heels of a gathering of EU foreign ministers.

He asserted that the latest unrest in Iran has complicated efforts to revive the JCPOA.

Iranian officials have repeatedly declared that their country is prepared for a solution that would revive the JCPOA, emphasizing that the U.S., which withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reinstated penalties, should give up making unreasonable demands. Iran has also stated that it has fulfilled its obligations pursuant to the deal and ball is now in the U.S. court to take a political decision.

The JCPOA ran serious difficulties following the U.S. exit. The revival negotiations commenced in April 2021 under Biden's presidency but came to a standstill in the summer.

## Iran's sitting volleyball remain top of world ranking

TEHRAN – Iran's men's sitting volleyball team remained top of the world ranking released by worldparavolley.org.

Team Melli won the 2022 World Sitting Volleyball Championships in November by beating Bosnia and Herzegovina in straight sets.

Bosnia and Herzegovina are second and Brazil sit third in the ranking.

The Iran men's national sitting volleyball team represents Islamic Republic of Iran in international sitting volleyball competitions and friendly matches. The team are one of the dominant forces in on the court worldwide. In foreign media, team Iran are colloquially known as dream team of sitting volleyball.

Iran team dedicated sitting volleyball 2016 Rio Paralympic gold to memory of Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarneghad, who died during Paralympic para cycling competition.

Iran's women's team are 13th in the standing.

The U.S. remain top, followed by Brazil and Canada.

## ECO should promote intra-regional trade between members: FM

IQTISODIY HAMKORLIK TASHKILOTI  
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THE 26th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION  
Tashkent, January 24, 2023



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian attended on Tuesday the ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Uzbekistan's capital and delivered a speech in which he criticized the European Union for its emotional behaviors.

In his speech, Amir Abdollahian touched on many issues including intra-regional trade, connectivity, energy, innovation, and the situation in Afghanistan.

“ECO should promote intra-regional trade between members. So far, this has been less so, and trade between members has not re-

ceived sufficient support from ECO's trade mechanisms. I suggest and request that all members, and not just the 5 member countries of the ECOTA trade agreement, support and participate in the initiation of negotiations for trade liberalization at the regional level,” he said. ► Page 3

## Rial-Ruble share exceeds 60% in Iran-Russia trade

TEHRAN – The share of the ruble and the rial in mutual settlements between Iran and Russia exceeds 60 percent, Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia's State Duma, stated.

As reported by Russia Today, making the remarks in a government meeting on Monday, Volodin said, “It is important to use set-

tlements in national currencies more actively. Much has already been done in this regard – now the share of the ruble and the rial in mutual settlements exceeds 60 percent. The work on the joint application of national payment systems is being completed. This will minimize the impact of sanctions, but also, of course, address issues related to mutually

beneficial cooperation.”

According to Volodin, both countries should now focus on boosting the efficiency of mutual cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, in particular, by increasing the use of national currencies in their trade exchanges, using the Russian ‘Mir’ and Iranian ‘Shetab’ payment systems. ► Page 4

## Serbia seeking Iran's expertise in organ transplantation, genetics

TEHRAN – Serbia has called for using Iran's expertise in the field of organ transplantation by sending patients to Iran for treatment and dispatching professors to learn the newest methods.

Serbian officials are also interested in cooperating with Iran in the field of genetics, the deputy health minister Mohammad-Hossein Nicknam said.

“We are ready to conduct joint research and boost academic cooperation between the two countries,” he added.

Nicknam made the remarks on the sidelines of his meeting with the Serbian deputy health minister in Tehran on Sunday.

Pointing out that Serbia has good experience in the field of health tourism, Nicknam said: “In the meeting with the deputy ► Page 7

## Ashuradeh; a heavenly realm for birdwatchers

Bandar Torkaman.

Some people believe that the word “Ashuradeh” means “hunting ground” or “pasture.” There is also historical speculation that Ashuradeh was a place where one of the kings of the Khwarazmian dynasty (1077-1231) fled after his defeat in the Mongol War. invasion of Iran.

Currently, only employees of the Iran Fish-

eries Organization live on the island, which has a surface area of about 320 hectares. The native population has left the island.

The still-standing ruins of the Safavid fortresses are one of Ashuradeh's historical landmarks.

The Russian castle, which served as an outpost from 1925 to 1979 under the Pahlavi dynasty, is now mostly destroyed. ► Page 6

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## Tehran Papers

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

## Legal aspects of possible action of EU against IRGC

The recent efforts to include the IRGC on the list of terrorist groups of the European Union are important in terms of laying the groundwork for the action of the Council of Europe and also in terms of reflecting public opinion. ► Page 2

## Sweden failed to disguise Islamophobia behind mask of freedom: speaker

TEHRAN- The speaker of the Iranian parliament condemned on Tuesday Swedish lawmakers for their attempts to promote Islamophobia, emphasizing that they cannot conceal their agenda behind a phony claim of free speech.

Speaking at the parliament open session in Tehran, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf remarked that Sweden's recent desecration of the Quran has broken the hearts of all Muslims worldwide.

The parliament also welcomed a Russian delegation on Monday, the speaker said in his comments, underscoring the importance of collaboration with Russia owing to their proximity to one another across the Caspian Sea and their shared interests in international and regional affairs. ► Page 2

## 2023 Abolhassan Najafi Award announces finalists

TEHRAN – Nine Persian translations of books by foreign writers have been shortlisted for the 6th edition of the Abolhassan Najafi Award.

A jury comprising Zia Movahed, Mahasti Bahreini, Abdollah Kowsari, Hossein Masumi Hamedani, Musa Asvar, Omid Tabibzadeh and Abtin Golkar selected the nominees from among 83 works, the Abolhassan Najafi Award Foundation announced on Tuesday.

A translation of French author Michel Houellebecq's 2010 novel “The Map and the Territory” by Abolfazl Allahdadi is among the finalists.

“The Map and the Territory” was among the most eagerly awaited and discussed novels of the 2010 literary season in France.

The novel tells the story of the life and art of Jed Martin, a fictional French artist who becomes famous by photographing Michelin maps and painting scenes about professional activities.

A translation of American author Nathanael West's 1939 novel “The Day of the Locust” by Farid Dabir-Moqaddam is competing for the prize. ► Page 8



## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Legal aspects of possible action of EU against IRGC

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

from page 1 ► The listing of the IRGC was not supposed to be on the agenda of the European Council on Monday, and it was supposed to be on the agenda of the Council only after the completion of its review in a special working group, which may take several weeks.

Since the decision in the working group and in the Council must be made unanimously by all 27 member states, the review process may take several weeks or months.

In this regard, there have been tense discussions in some European countries in the past weeks. While considering this action as “important and logical”, the German foreign minister has conditioned support on providing legal grounds for it. England is also discussing the case.

The British authorities believe that putting the IRGC on the list of terrorist groups is facing legal obstacles.

While similar legal debates are going on in some other European countries, Europe is focusing on the impact of this action on the nuclear agreement (JCPOA), and its economic effects.

Another issue is that European countries should reach a consensus about it. From this point of view, Russia could have influence, because Putin has influence on one or two Eastern European countries, and if he is really against the move, it can be effective.

#### Kayhan: Europe's rope-dancing on sanctions' rotten rope

In an article entitled “Europe's rope-dancing on sanctions' rotten rope”, Kayhan points to the approval of a new package of sanctions against Iran and writes: When Europeans failed in creating chaos in Iran to make Iran surrender in the (nuclear) negotiations, they entered the phase of intensifying the sanctions.

It is further states: Although the U.S. and Europe's rope-dancing on the rotten rope of sanctions has been tried many times and led the hegemonic system to a dead end, but with the support of pro-Western forces, they are trying to stop the “train of the country's progress” by intensifying the pressure and even reawaken the unrest inside the country.

The Europeans, along with the United States, have interfered in Iran's internal affairs and sanctioned Iran's officials and institutions many times under the pretext of the recent unrest and protection of human rights.

On Monday, the Europeans approved a new package of sanctions against Iran in a suicidal attempt at the “Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Union” claiming “targeting those driving the repression”.

Hours after the European Union imposed new anti-Iranian sanctions, the British government announced that it had added seven new names (5 individuals and 2 institutions) to the “Iranian Human Rights Sanctions Regime”.

While criticizing the positions of some organizations in the country, Kayhan writes: Although the American Democrats, as well as the Europeans, have admitted more than once that Trump's “maximum pressure” campaign has failed, still they are looking for hatred, Iranophobia and intensifying pressure against Iran.

It is obvious that the sanctions against Iran have

become less effective and the Islamic Republic will not give in to the pressure of the West with the bargaining chips it has, but it should be said that some of the agents of the West have been openly supporting both the rioters during the last 4 months and the wave of sanctions.

#### Khorassan: Europe retreats

In an article, the Khorassan newspaper referred to the withdrawal of European Union from the proposal by the European Parliament to sanction the IRGC and writes: Monday's meeting of the European foreign ministers, despite the previous announcement, did not make a decision about including the IRGC on the terrorist list, and the council announced that it did not make a decision about it at the moment.

In the meeting on Monday, the EU foreign ministers planned to impose sanctions against 37 Iranian individuals and entities and work on the issue of putting the IRGC on the list of terrorist organizations.

Josep Borrell also told reporters on Monday: “You cannot say I consider you a terrorist because I don't like you.”

Borrell noted that could only happen if a court in an EU country determined the IRGC was guilty of terrorism.

Borrell's comments were considered by some observers as a withdrawal of the EU from the anti-Iran resolution of the European Parliament, and the BBC considered it a sign of a divide at the top level in the EU over designating the IRGC as a terrorist. In fact, the European Parliament adopted resolution against the IRGC after Ursula von Der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, supported such a designation.

At the same time, Iran's FM Hossein Amir Abdollahian welcomed Borrell's statements and said: “What we saw in Borrell's statements indicates that the EU should not move towards costly actions.”

#### Etemad: Uproar over closing Strait of Hormuz

The Etemad newspaper refers to recent remarks regarding the need to close the Strait of Hormuz in response to the tensions between Iran and Western countries and writes: Statements are made that Iran should close the Strait of Hormuz in order to counter the hostile policies of the West, but is it possible to close this strait?

The newspaper further refers to the opinion of some experts and writes: Some believe that the Strait of Hormuz is not inside the (territorial) borders of Iran, so it cannot be closed or receive crossing fees for the passage of ships.

“In the 1982 convention, the Strait of Hormuz was introduced as an international strait,” Yousef Molaei, a professor of international relations and political law at Tehran University, told Etemad.

Molaei continued, “Of course, the Strait of Hormuz is part of Iran's territorial waters because the width of this strait is less than 24 miles. But because it is a strait that is considered the only way to connect the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman, therefore, according to international documents, it is an international strait.”

He went on to say, “During the Iran-Iraq war, there were many discussions to close this strait, but it was not allowed to do so. I don't think that all the officials agree on that. There are only some hard-liners that threaten to do that. These threats may be to dissuade the European Union from taking action against the IRGC.”



the Islamic Republic of Iran have improved considerably.

Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of the Russian State Duma, led a parliamentary team that landed in Tehran on Sunday for a two-day official visit.

# EU not seeking to take costly actions, Abdollahian says

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, said on Monday that European politicians should steer clear of making emotional and illogical remarks, citing European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's recent remarks as evidence that the EU is not looking to take costly actions.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments while delivering a speech at the history of foreign relations conference in Tehran.

Pointing to the recent events in the region and the larger world, the senior diplomat said in addition to returning to “respectful talks” and concentrating on “diplomatic responsibilities” it is necessary to reduce disputes to establish stability and serenity.

He urged European leaders to avoid making emotive declarations and expressed optimism that some European countries' foreign policy would be guided by reason.

Amir Abdollahian used Borrell's most recent remarks to emphasize the fact that the EU foreign policy chief's remarks on the IRGC demon-



strate that the EU is not seeking to take drastic steps.

He reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran views dialogue and constructive engagement with the European Union as the best choice, notwithstanding the interventionist actions of some European and

Western governments and their incitement of riots in Iran.

Amir Abdollahian stressed in other parts of his speech that the Islamic Republic does not need to hold direct negotiations with the United States.

## Rolling back Iranian nuclear program extremely unlikely: ex-Israeli official

*‘There's no non-political solution to Iran's nuclear issue’*

TEHRAN - A former Israeli official has said it is impossible to curb Iran's rapidly advancing nuclear program except finding a political solution to it.

“Iran has progressed almost unhindered its enrichment program—and in a way that takes the sting out of almost any non-political solution,” Danny Citrinowicz wrote in Atlantic Council on January 19.

Citrinowicz, former chief of the Iran branch in the Research and Analysis Division (RAD) in the Israeli defense intelligence, also says, “The ability to roll back the Iranian nuclear threat is extremely unlikely in any scenario.”

Following is an excerpt of his article titled “Netanyahu's Iran policy is expected to fail—again”:

Immediately upon Benjamin Netanyahu's entry into the prime minister's office for the sixth time in history, his government declared that their goal was to focus on Iranian, most notably its nuclear program.

From Netanyahu's statements and actions—such as sending Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer to Washington on January 9—it is clear that the prime minister has not changed his ways regarding the Iran file. Netanyahu intends to continue to oppose any nuclear agreement with Tehran.

In this context, Netanyahu seems to mainly focus on strengthening Israel's ties with the United States, thereby mobilizing world and regional powers to increase political and economic pressure on Tehran. However, what was a difficult task for Netanyahu a few years ago is becoming an almost impossible one in the current international climate due to a host of reasons.

The biggest problem that Netanyahu has today is the fact that he will have a tough time rallying the Joe Biden administration. Iran is not at the center of the administration's dealings; the campaign in Ukraine and the dramatic rise of the Chinese threat are more pressing issues for the administration than Iran.

Furthermore, it seems from the Biden administration's behavior that additional pressure could destroy the equilibrium created with Tehran and prevent any chance of a future political settlement. This will make it very difficult for Netanyahu and his team to convince anyone in Washington that they're on the right path.

## U.S. scrambling to clamp down on growing Iranian oil shipments

TEHRAN- The U.S. State Department's special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, has said that Washington is “not fine” with the higher trend in Iran's oil exports in recent months and will seek to “do more” to discourage and put pressure on nations purchasing more oil from Iran.

Malley said in an interview with Bloomberg TV that U.S. sanctions against Iran and its oil sales that have been in effect since former U.S. President Donald Trump with-

drew Washington from the nuclear deal in 2018 are still in place and have not been “loosened or decreased.”

He confirmed that Iran's oil exports have surged since the end of last year and stated that Washington is actively watching the situation and taking action to thwart the growing flows, particularly when it comes to China.

Since the imposition of sanctions, China has been by far the largest destination for Iranian

crude.

Malley also said that the U.S. has spoken to the Chinese government about the matter and that it would continue to take action to impose sanctions on all people and organizations identified to be engaged in the import of Iranian oil.

“The discussions we've been having with the Chinese—discussions that date back several months—will be furthered,” he added.

The senior diplomat added that Iran will not hesitate for a moment to defend its interests, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

Writing an article in Al Jazeera on Monday, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian defending the record of the IRGC, saying, “While throngs of EU citizens were rushing to our region to join ‘terrorist’ groups across the extremist spectrum, the IRGC had entered Iraq and Syria's battlefronts on official invitation from their respective governments, to assist them in their fight against ‘terrorism’ in general and ISIL (ISIS) in particular.”

He also said the IRGC is a leading counterterror force and essential to Europe's security interests in the Middle East.

The chief diplomat added, “The EU designating the IRGC as a “terrorist” group would be a boon to warmongers who for long have been lobbying for a military face-off between Iran and the West. They would see this as a step towards fully severing all ties between Iran and Europe, which would be in no one's interest.”

community.

Even if the Netanyahu administration could completely prioritize the Iran nuclear program, which has only intensified in recent years, it is unclear whether it could significantly impede their adversary's progress. Since the 2018 U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA—with the encouragement of the Netanyahu government—Iran has made dramatic progress in enrichment, overcoming every technological obstacle it had in the past and getting it very close to obtaining enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb. This challenges any operative plan and raises the question: is it possible to erase the knowledge gained in Iran even if facilities in Natanz and Fordow disappear from the world tomorrow?

**“If Netanyahu thinks mobilizing regional powers will put pressure on Iran, he should think twice.”**

In addition, the strengthening relationship between Russia and Iran may also make it difficult for Israel to increase its covert operations in Tehran from a political and even security standpoint. In order to cope with the Donald Trump administration's maximum pressure campaign, Tehran raised the bar through its “maximum resistance campaign” to regain deterrence and to “balance the equation” with Israel and the West. Unlike in the Hassan Rouhani era, where the main political goal was to preserve the nuclear agreement, Iran under Ebrahim Raisi is more eager to retaliate against any aggression. That is why, in the face of future kinetic activities by Israel, there is an increasing danger of war.

If Netanyahu thinks mobilizing regional powers—led by Saudi Arabia—will put pressure on Iran, he should think twice. Arab countries prefer to maintain dialogue channels and an economic relationship with Tehran, understanding that this is the only way to reduce escalation with Iran. These countries are very afraid of a regional military conflict and will find it difficult to support it due to the possible impact on their security.

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

## Sweden failed to disguise Islamophobia behind mask of freedom: speaker

from page 1 ► The expansion of collaboration should be the main goal for the Iranian and Russian parliaments, according to Qalibaf, who also urged regular meetings between the two countries.

The promotion of links in the fields of oil, gas, investment, transportation, and agriculture took precedence at the meeting of the parliamentary committee between Moscow and Tehran.

Qalibaf went on to add that the need for reducing barriers, including visa issuance, was also stressed between both officials.

He continued by saying that the two parliamentary delegations met to discuss a variety of topics, including using national currencies in bilateral trade.

Ties between the Russian Federation and



# Raisi says Iran stands by Syria in reconstruction period

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi underlined that Iran will stand by Syria in the reconstruction period just as it did during the resistance period.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is a true friend of the Syrian nation, because just as it stood by the Syrian nation and government during the resistance against terrorism, it is ready to stand by them during the reconstruction period by strengthening all-round economic cooperation,” President Raisi said, according to a readout released by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Ayatollah Raisi made the remarks during a meeting with Syrian Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Ali Mahmoud Abbas.

The visit by the Syrian defense minister comes amid media speculations about a possible normalization between Syria and Turkey on the one hand and between Syria and some Arab states on the other hand. Rumor had it that Syria-Iran relations simultaneously went through a period of coolness.

But the recent visit of the Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, to Damascus and the subsequent visit of the Syrian defense minister to Tehran showed the opposite.

In his meeting with the Syrian defense minister, Ayatollah Raisi described the Syrian armed forces’ protection of the country’s nation and the government against sedition as promising for the future of the people and the country.

Raisi also described and clarified the relations between the two countries as strategic, adding, “The relations between Iran and Syria are based on common beliefs, as well as the spirit of standing and resistance of the people of the two countries”.



In this meeting, Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas also stated that Syria won against terrorism with the support of its true brothers and friends and will play a stronger role as one of the chains of the resistance axis, saying, “The axis of resistance will play an important role in shaping the new world”.

The Syrian Defense Minister said, “Enemies have always been looking for an opportunity to damage the deep, brotherly relations between Syria and Iran, but the relations between the two countries are too deep-rooted and strong for anyone to damage them, and these relations are becoming wider and deeper better than before”.

The Syrian defense minister also met with the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), General Hossein Salami. In this meeting, General Salami expressed the IRGC’s readiness to share its experiences in cyber, intelligence and electronic warfare with Syria.

The IRGC commander underlined the importance of closer military and defense cooperation between Iran and Syria, Tasnim reported.

Voicing the IRGC’s readiness to assist the Syrian armed forces in various fields, Major General Salami highlighted the need to share experiences in the spheres relating to cyberwarfare, intelligence and information warfare, and electronic warfare.

While the IRGC remains committed to the previous military agreements with Syria, it is prepared to broaden training cooperation with the Syrian armed forces in various sectors, such as the command and staff courses, supreme courses of war strategies, supreme courses for branches, and other expert fields, Salami stated.

The IRGC chief further described the growing cases of insecurity and the recent developments in the territories occupied by the Zionists and in the West Bank, Jenin and Gaza as a sign of the decline of the Zionist regime, adding, “Those who sought to destroy Syria one day with a global onslaught are now on the road to decline and perdition.”

The Syrian defense minister, for his part, expressed gratitude to Iran for supporting his country in the fight against terrorism and Daesh (ISIL or ISIS).

Abbas also noted that the

Syrian military forces are going to win the final victory and cleanse the entire Syria of occupiers with the resistance shown by its people and the unwavering support provided by Iran and Hezbollah.

## Iran top general meets Syrian defense minister

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri met in Tehran Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas.

In the meeting, lauded Syria for its resistance and supporting Palestine from the outset of occupation of the Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime, Tasnim reported.

The senior commander stressed the need for staging a joint military exercise between Iran and Syria.

Major General Baqeri also condemned the recurrent Israeli acts of aggression against the Arab country that has violated international law.

He noted that Iran has provided advisory support for the Syrian Army so far, expressing the Islamic Republic’s readiness to help the Syrian military forces in restructuring, training, and supplying equipment.

For his part, the Syrian defense minister highlighted the close interaction between Damascus and Tehran in the fight against terrorism and the common enemy.

Praising the Islamic Republic for backing his country during the crisis and for standing against the Israeli regime, Abbas said Syria will continue to fight against the Zionist regime and stand with the nations seeking independence.

In July 2020, Iran and Syria signed a comprehensive agreement to enhance their cooperation in the military and defense sectors.

## Ex-Esteghlal player Padovani makes plan for 2024 Paralympics



Brazilian player Leandro Padovani plunged headfirst onto the turf after colliding with a team-mate during a match in the Iranian league in 2018. Sprawled on the ground and slurring incoherently, a doctor and physiotherapist for his team Esteghlal Football Club decided he had a concussion and had him removed on a stretcher, without immobilizing his head and neck.

He was later diagnosed with a spinal injury and – despite surgery – is now tetraplegic, consigned to a wheelchair, and unable to feel his body below his chest.

Padovani filed a claim against the club at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for negligent first-aid treatment. FIFPRO – which supported Padovani’s claim – considers the case to be a landmark for advancing player rights because the tribunal agreed such personal injury claims can be brought before the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber and CAS.

However, despite evidence from a neurosurgeon, the tribunal found the club was not liable because he could not prove substandard medical treatment exacerbated his injury.

The following is an interview with Padovani.

### FIFPRO: Do you remember what happened?

Leandro Padovani: I don’t remember anything until the moment I woke up in hospital the next day. You can see from the video that a team doctor and physio came on the pitch. They said I was swallowing my tongue. I was confused and was talking strangely. They thought it might be concussion – they thought it was a head injury, not a spinal injury.

From first aid you learn in school, you learn anyone who hits his head, that you don’t touch the person, you leave it to the people who are experts. I don’t understand how the doctor and physio did not see the seriousness and took me from the pitch the way I was taken off on a stretcher, with my head moving about.

### How is your life now?

I live in a small apartment in Brasília with my wife Larissa and our four-month-old baby son, Lorenzo. To survive after an accident like that you must reinvent yourself. You need to be another person. The injury was a very big low for me. I was in high-performance sport, and now I can only move my arms. I was at 100 kilometers per hour and now I’m at 20 kilometers per hour.

You need to update the space and a society which is not adapted: pavements, restaurants, houses, cars et cetera. People say you look fine, but nobody knows the consequences. For example, I can’t hold this glass of orange juice in my hand for long, I don’t have full grip in my hands. I have difficulty with peeing, I need to use a catheter. I feel pains in my body every day.

### What are your next objectives?

I wanted to get out of a depression, so I am training as a paralympic swimmer. I have a coach and train three days a week in the pool, and two days in the gym doing weight training. My dream is to compete in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. I’m in the three best Paralympic swimmers in Brazil, but on a global level I need to improve. For now, it’s just a dream.

### Were you aware that you were not insured?

Yes. Every year I was there (from 2012 to 2018) there was no insurance, neither medical nor life insurance. You receive an offer of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month in wages, but the club doesn’t want to give you insurance. There is no room to negotiate – if you refuse there are a million other players behind you who want to play.

## You still receive a lot of messages of support from fans in Iran.

I never had problem with the people there: I like the people, the culture, the food. Until today people send me messages on Instagram, they ask me how I am, and sympathize with my case. They don’t understand how the club could treat me like that. There was big repercussion in the media after the accident because I was playing in a big team.

The media put pressure on the club to give me a pension. They give me a one-year contract of about \$1,500 per month to be a member of the technical commission but they only paid me 60 percent of that amount nine months later. It was just a way to calm down the media and fans. I left in November 2018, and never got a call from the club after that.

## Do you have any legal avenues left to pursue?

We took legal action against the club in Iran soon after the accident in 2018, but we didn’t hear anything. Nothing has happened. If it was in Europe, there would be different treatment for sure.

I feel like I am a poster boy for everything that is wrong with the game. The treatment I received was subhuman. Clubs need to understand that players are not just disposable objects. We bring income to clubs, joy to fans, and boost the economy but, at the end of the day, who looks after the player?

## Brazilian forward Leandro Pereira linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Leandro Marcos Peruchena Pereira is on the verge of joining Persepolis football club.

The 31-year-old forward has most recently played in Japanese side Gamba Osaka.

Persepolis had been previously linked with Brazilian forwards Nicolas Godinho Johann and Wellington Luís de Sousa.

Pereira started his playing career at Ferroviária in 2011 and has also played in Brazilian clubs Portuguesa, Palmeiras and Japanese teams Matsumoto Yamaga and Sanfrece Hiroshima.

Persepolis lead the Iran Professional League (IPL) table.

## Gholizadeh wants to leave Charleroi

TEHRAN – Iranian international winger Ali Gholizadeh is reportedly going to part company with Belgian top flight side Charleroi.

Gholizadeh’s wife, Yasaman Farmani, has returned to Iran for medical reasons and he wants to join her.

Gholizadeh was absent in the match against Club Brugge, where two teams spoiled share in a 2-2 draw.

The winger joined Charleroi from Saipa in 2018.

Gholizadeh was a member of Iran national football team in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The Iranian media reports suggest that he has been linked with a move to Persepolis.

## Sepahan part company with Brazilian defender Renato

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Sepahan parted ways with Brazilian Renato Palm da Silva by mutual consent.

The 30-year-old defender had penned a two-year deal with Sepahan in July 2022 but failed to live up to expectations.

Renato had joined the Isfahan-based football club from Vila Nova Futebol Clube.

Sepahan are headed by Portuguese coach Jose Morais.

## ECO should promote intra-regional trade between members: FM

### ‘EU emotional behavior will be costly for Europe’

From Page 1 ▶ Amir Abdollahian stated, “Transportation is one of the drivers of convergence and collective development and prosperity of the economic capacities of the region in the coming years. As a region, ECO is a transit route to connect peripheral regions including East and South Asia, North and Eastern Europe, and the south of the Persian Gulf.”

He also addressed the energy security crisis that is currently racking the world. “The current energy security crisis in the world and the region has clearly revealed the vulnerability of energy consuming countries to unexpected shocks. Climate changes and recent winter cold have also highlighted the vulnerability of some energy producing countries. The ECO region can become a model of partnership between energy producing countries and energy consuming countries. Undoubtedly, participation in the gas and electricity sectors is one of ECO’s priorities in this regard,” he said, adding, “I would like to point out the initiative of the honorable presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the title ‘Gas in the service of the recovery of the global economy after Covid,’ which was presented in the assembly of gas exporting countries. This initiative can also be the basis for participation in the ECO region.”

The Iranian foreign minister continued, “ECO needs more and more investment in the field of new technologies, knowledge-based industries and digitalization of economic activities. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to share its achievements in knowledge-based fields with ECO member countries.”

He pointed out that Iran has always welcomed initiatives and proposals that lead to strengthening the role and position of ECO in the economic development of member countries. In this regard, “strengthening the sense of belonging to ECO” is

very key among the private and public sectors as well as the elites of the member countries and above all among the people of the region, he added.

Amir Abdollahian noted, “We also need the presence of all 10 member countries in the ECO cooperation mechanisms and arrangements. This can, and should, be one of the achievements of the fourth decade. In this ministerial meeting, the creation of two new cooperation mechanisms, including the establishment of the ‘ECO Natural Disaster Risk Management Regional Center’ in the Republic of Iran and the ‘ECO Clean Energy Center’ in the Republic of Azerbaijan, are on the agenda. We expect all members to support their creation and join them.”

### All-inclusive government in Afghanistan needed

Amir Abdollahian also addressed the situation in Afghanistan and underlined the need for the formation of an all-inclusive government in the war-torn country.

“Afghanistan is a very important member and part of the big ECO family. The Islamic Republic of Iran was one of the main countries in designing and approving the ‘ECO Support Policy for Afghanistan’ and has always supported the necessity of its full and effective implementation. This support is in addition to bilateral aid to solve the problems of the noble people of Afghanistan and prevent humanitarian crises,” he said.

The Iranian foreign minister added, “Undoubtedly, the establishment of an inclusive government in Afghanistan can not only help the aid programs and reconstruction of the country, but it will also reduce the threats caused by terrorist operations, refugees and drug trafficking for the region.”

He said, “We consider the action of the ruling

body of Afghanistan in depriving women and girls of education, an action in conflict with the teachings of the merciful religion of Islam, and we express our deep concern about it.”

### Iran respects human rights

Amir Abdollahian also underlined Iran’s adherence to its global obligations. “In addition to responsible approaches in regional frameworks, the Islamic Republic of Iran adheres to its obligations in the global arena. Among other things, in the framework of national and Islamic foundations and principles, the constitution and international commitments, attention to human rights issues is among the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It always welcomed and welcomes dialogue in the framework of mutual respect and meaningful interaction with serious partners,” he said.

He noted, “The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on the doctrine of balanced foreign policy, interaction and cooperation with the world and non-interference in internal affairs. We strongly condemn the adoption of the interventionist and unconventional resolution by the European Parliament. Undoubtedly, the negative consequences of such emotional behavior are costly for Europe, and therefore the right path is to focus on diplomacy, constructive interaction and rationality.”

Amir Abdollahian also condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Europe. “The Islamic Republic of Iran does not consider the insulting behavior towards the sanctities of divine religions, especially the insulting of the Holy Quran and the Western governments’ support for it under the title of freedom of expression, to be acceptable in any way and strongly condemns it,” he said.



## Two police officers killed in Sistan and Baluchistan province

TERHAN – The police chief of Sistan and Baluchistan province announced on Tuesday that two police officer were killed in Bampour County while in the line of duty.

Mohammad Ghanbari said the officers were attacked by “evil” assailants in the early hours of Tuesday while walking the beat in Bampour. After attacking the

officers, Ghanbari said, the evil assailants sped away.

The two officers were named Mokhtar Momeni and Abouzar Omidvar. Another officer named Milad Abdollahi was injured in the clash.

In early December, a conscript was killed and another wounded in a deadly shooting in the border province. The two conscripts were

targeted at night in the port city of Chabahar, southeast Iran.

According to media, two gunmen shot at the conscripts who were in the line of duty. One conscript identified as Aref Hooti lost his life as a result of the shooting and the other one, Benyamin Fazeli, was shot in the shoulder and received treatment in a local hospital.



## Rial-Ruble share exceeds 60% in Iran-Russia trade

from page 1 ► The Russian official further announced that trade between Iran and Russia surged by 15 percent in 2022, reaching \$4.6 billion.

Volodin noted that the two countries are actively taking steps to build up mutual trade, saying: "extremely important in the conditions of sanctions pressure on our countries."

He also praised the memorandum on free trade between Iran and the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which was finalized last week, saying that the agreement will help expand Iran-Russia trade even further.

Trade with Iran is significant for Russia on its own but is also seen as a "logistical bridge" between Russia and West Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, due to Iran's geographical placement.

Cooperation between the two countries gained momentum last year, amid Western sanctions on both Moscow and Tehran. Throughout 2022, both sides reached a number of agreements expanding mutual cooperation, from barter supply deals for Iranian turbines, spare parts, and aircraft equipment, to contracts for the joint construction of gas pipelines.

## 'Khuzestan can be a hub of flowers, ornamental plants production in Iran'



TEHRAN- Khuzestan province, in the southwest of Iran, can be a hub of flowers and ornamental plants production in the country, the deputy governor-general of the province for the economic affairs stated.

Aqa-Reza Fotouhi pointed out that Khuzestan province has a high potential due to the climate and restated that it can be a hub of the cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants in the country.

"And also, in terms of exports, due to being neighbor to the Persian Gulf littoral states as well as Iraq (which are some major export destinations of Iran's flowers and ornamental plants), Khuzestan can play an effective role in boosting the export in this due, and it can create good employment as well", the official further noted.

As reported, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral states, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Azerbaijan are among the major importers of flowers and ornamental plants from Iran.

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

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

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

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

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

Every year, three billion flowers and ornamental plants are produced in the country, of which only 300 million are exported. 50 percent of the produced flowers are sold domestically and the rest is thrown away.

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

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

According to him, to produce flowers and ornamental plants for export, it should be considered as an industry and the demands of target companies should be evaluated.

## Export from Isfahan province increases 16%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Isfahan province rose 16 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the director-general of the province's customs department announced.

Rasoul Kouhestani-Pajouh said that 1.749 million tons of commodities worth \$1.144 billion have been exported from the province in the nine-month period, with ten percent growth in weight year on

year.

The official said that 753 types of goods were exported to 89 countries from the province in the first nine months of this year.

He named iron and cast-iron products, steel products, petrochemical products, dairy products, machine and handwoven carpets as the main exported items, and Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Armenia as the major export destinations.

## CBI steps in to stabilize forex market

TEHRAN – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said the bank has started taking the necessary measures to stabilize the foreign currency exchange market in collaboration with exchange shops, IRIB reported.

"As of today, the central bank and exchange offices will take joint measures to manage foreign currency resources in order to restore economic stability in the country," Mohammad-Reza Farzin Twitted on Tuesday.

## IRICA to unveil support package for stock market companies next week

TEHRAN – Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has said his organization is going to unveil a support package for the companies active in the stock market next week, Mehr News Agency reported.

"We have prepared a support package for listed and over-the-counter companies that will be

unveiled next week," Mohammad Rezvani said on Monday in a ceremony held for honoring Iran's top 100 companies.

According to Rezvani, the mentioned package includes the facilitation of customs duty refunds and other benefits, mainly for the country's exemplary companies active in the stock market.

# Coal concentrate output up 20% in 9 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of coal concentrate in Iran rose 20 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data put the country's nine-month coal concentrate output at 1.3 million tons.

Due to the special conditions of coal mines in Iran, these mines are subject to tax exemption and any miners who need mining machinery can use the facilities and tax exemption in this sector to import their necessary machinery.



The country's average annual coal concentrate production is about 1.5 million tons, while the country's current demand has exceeded two million tons.

Currently, Iran's coal sector provides employment for 17,000 people, however, the capacity of the country's coal mines is much more than this figure, and the development of the mining sector and modernization projects can play an effective role in increasing employment in this sector.

Unofficial data indicate that there are 185 small and large coal mines in the country, of which more than 59 percent are currently active, while 10 mines are being equipped and prepared, and the rest are idle.

## 'Developing transportation infrastructure, a must for boosting Iran-Namibia trade'

TEHRAN – The deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) says developing transportation infrastructure is a prerequisite for the expansion of trade ties between Iran and Namibia.

Speaking in a meeting with Head of Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Charity Mwale Mwiya in Tehran on Tuesday, Alireza Yavari expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of trade between the two countries, saying: "The lack of transportation infrastructure between the two countries is the most important reason for the decrease in the level of trade relations between Iran and Namibia."

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, Yavari



ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Alireza Yavari (1st L) and Head of Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Charity Mwale Mwiya (1st R)

pointed to pharmaceuticals, food industry, and agriculture as potential areas for cooperation between the two countries and said: "Since these areas are not affected by the U.S. sanctions, the chambers of commerce of Iran and Namibia can establish good business relations in these areas."

Mwiya for her part expressed interest in using the experiences of Iranian companies in processing agricultural products and stated: "Namibia is one of the world's top meat exporters and one of the successful countries in the field of fisheries and fish farming."

"Iran and Namibia can also have good cooperation in the field of processing precious stones, including diamonds," she stressed.

## Commodities worth over \$813m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,077,181 tons of commodities and 10,155 vehicles with a total trading value of more than \$813 million on its physical market.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1,715,839 tons of commodities valued at more than \$597 million.

On this floor the IME sold 860,447 tons of cement, 440,000 tons of iron ore, 356,207 tons of steel, 42,000 tons of sponge iron, 9,125 tons of aluminum, 8,500 tons of copper, 1,625 tons of zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 13 kg of gold bars and 10,155 vehicles.



Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 357,301 tons of commodities worth almost \$211 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 134,857 tons of bitumen, 75,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 90,536 tons of polymeric products, 17,000 tons of lube cut, 31,930 tons of chemicals, 12,050 tons of sulfur, 4,665 tons of base oil, 500 tons of

petroleum products and 200 tons of insulation.

The IME also traded within the same week 4,041 tons of commodities on its side market.

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

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

## Over 14.5m tons of steel products produced in 9 months

TEHRAN- Production of steel products in Iran stood at 14.527 million tons in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data indicate that the nine-month steel products output has fallen 23 percent as compared to the production in the same period of time in the past year.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus

outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

The latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA) shows that Iran's crude steel output has increased 8.5 percent in the first 11 months of 2022, while the world steel output has fallen 3.7 percent in the said period.

Production of crude steel in Iran reached 27.9 million tons during the mentioned 11 months, as compared to 25.7 million tons in the first 11 months of 2021.

The WSA put the crude steel output by the world's top 64 producers at about 1.691 billion tons in the mentioned time span.

During the first 11 months of the current year, all of the world's top 10 steel producers except for Iran and India experienced a decline in their steel output, according to the WSA report.

Iran's monthly crude steel output stood at 2.9 million tons in November, registering a 3.9 percent rise compared to the figure for the same month in 2021.

The Islamic Republic of Iran maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer in the period under review.

## U.S. extends waiver to Iran-UK joint gas field in North Sea

TEHRAN – The U.S. Treasury has extended a license for Serica Energy to operate the Rhum gas field in the North Sea which is 50 percent owned by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Serica announced in a statement.

The two-year waiver by the

U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) allows companies such as oilfield service providers to work on the field despite the National Iranian Oil Company being targeted by U.S. sanctions.

A one-year waiver was first granted in October 2018 after U.S. President Donald Trump

imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic after pulling out of an international nuclear deal. The waiver was extended in October 2019 for another two-year period.

Rhum was the third largest gas-producing field in the British North Sea in the second

quarter of 2019, Serica CEO Mitch Flegg said.

Serica owns 50 percent of the Rhum field, which it acquired from British Petroleum last year. Iran's share of the revenue from the field goes into an escrow account.

## TEDPIX drops 7,800 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 7,892 points to 1.646 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 9.151 billion securities worth 59.82 trillion rials (about \$149.55

million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 7,539 points, and the second market's index lost 10,494 points

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock

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



Brazil and Argentina are planning on a common currency for the region in a bid to distance themselves from the U.S. dollar.

Washington has been using its currency as a weapon to advance its own hegemony around the world.

As a result, many civilian populations have suffered from unilateral American sanctions imposed on countries who are independent or have taken the course toward independence.

In a joint letter, the new Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said they wanted to “advance discussions on a common South American currency” to be used for financial and trade flows.

President Lula, who has made Buenos Aires his first foreign trip since taking office, says that early talks are focused on developing a shared unit of value for bilateral trade to reduce reliance on dollar.

Under the plan, the Brazilian currency (the real) as well as the Argentine currency (the peso), for example, would continue to exist, with the new tender aimed at trade transactions between different Latin American countries.

Brazil and Argentina are the first and second largest economies in Latin America respectively. How the plan will be implemented remains to be seen, but the statement of intent is a very powerful move itself.

South America’s two biggest economies will try to advance the plan during talks at a summit in Buenos Aires this week and will invite other Latin American nations to participate.

Not only Lula is reversing the policies of his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, by distancing Brazil from the United States he is also putting more focus on the region itself.

The idea of making trade transactions in local currencies as opposed to the U.S. dollar is not limited to Brazil and Argentina, or Latin America for that matter.

Over the past decade, more countries have made or started similar initiatives to trade in their own currencies in a bid to ditch the U.S. dollar.

The dollar is the world’s top reserve currency. Washington’s policy in using the dollar as a financial weapon has prompted many countries to consider other currencies in their trade.

Where the U.S. cannot create instability through invasions, it wages wars through proxies or using other hybrid warfare mechanisms. It has also resorted to sanctions to fuel unrest in countries that don’t see eye to eye with Washington.

The U.S. goal is to destroy the economy of its adversaries with the hope of turning local populations against their governments.

## U.S. renews waiver for gas field shared by Iran and UK

The U.S. government has renewed a sanctions waiver for the Rhum gas field in the UK North Sea in which Iran has a 50% stake.

Iran is heavily sanctioned by the United States, but Britain’s Serica Energy which owns another 50% of the field has repeatedly secured waivers to maintain production from the field.

In a statement, Serica said it had secured another waiver extension that ensures that all companies linked to the field can provide services and goods without fear of U.S. penalties.

“We are grateful to the UK government and regulatory authorities who have supported us in this process,” Serica Chief Executive Mitch Flegg was quoted as saying.

Serica Energy is responsible for 5% of the gas produced in the UK which is currently in turmoil over runaway prices of energy in the wake of the Ukraine war.

The UK firm expects its net production to increase by between 50 and 80 percent this year and that level of production to continue into 2025.

This would mean that the company would be producing up to 40,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, reports said.

Rhum, a gas field located 240 miles (390 km) northeast of Aberdeen in Scotland, is one of the largest on the UK Continental Shelf.

Iran owns half of the stakes at the gas field based on a deal signed before the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The field is believed to be

capable of producing more than five million cubic meters of natural gas.

Washington has imposed a series of harsh sanctions on Iran’s energy sector since 2018 when it pulled out of an international nuclear deal.

### Pressure hardening

The Biden administration, however, is hardening its position. The Iraqi government is reportedly under immense pressure from Washington to stem the alleged flow of dollars into Iran.

In recent weeks, Iraq’s currency market has been wracked by turmoil after the U.S. introduced tighter controls on international dollar transactions by commercial Iraqi banks in November.

Reports said the move was designed to curb the alleged siphoning of dollars to Iran and apply more pressure along with U.S. sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

Iraqi MP Aqeel al-Fatlawi, however, said Washington was deliberately using the new regulations as a political weapon.

“Americans are using the dollar transfer rigid restrictions as warning messages to Prime Minister Sudani to stay tuned with the American interests. ‘Working against us could lead to bringing down your government’ – this is the American message,” the lawmaker said.

The price of consumer goods has increased and the Iraqi currency has taken a beating in the wake of the U.S. restrictions.

said that the U.S. sanctions against Moscow could speed up the move by countries to reduce their reliance on the American currency.

The United States and its allies froze about \$300 billion belonging to Russia’s central bank’s foreign currency reserves and severely limited Russia’s access to the SWIFT payment system. Similar measures have been taken against other countries including Afghanistan, Iran, and Venezuela.

In a report, Bank of America analysts led by Michael Hartnett pointed out that “U.S. dollar debasement [is the] ultimate outcome as dollar weaponized in new era of sanctions.”

As a result of Washington’s

In a joint letter, the new Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said they wanted to “advance discussions on a common South American currency” to be used for financial and trade flows.

sanctions, countries have been seeking alternative monetary systems which have dealt a blow to the dollar itself. The role of the American currency has been declining over the past two decades, with reports indicating its share of reserve currencies have gone down from 70 percent to 60 percent over that period.

In the summer of 2021, the International Monetary Fund issued a report warning that the share of U.S. dollar reserves held by central banks fell to 59 percent – its lowest level in 25 years – during the fourth quarter of 2020, according to the IMF’s Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) survey.

Some analysts say this partly reflects the declining role of the U.S. dollar in the global economy, in the face of competition from other currencies.

Despite multiple warnings, the U.S. has been pursuing illegal economic policies by weaponizing its currency.

A Washington-based think tank says the U.S. has been “extremely trigger-happy” with its economic measures, and central banks may decide to diversify their foreign reserves instead of relying on the U.S. dollar.

The co-director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, Gal Luft has said that “central banks are beginning to ask questions,” and that they are wondering if their dependence on the dollar and “putting all their eggs in one basket” is an intelligent idea.

“The United States has extended itself, has been extremely trigger-happy when it comes to the use of sanctions and other economic punishments,” he said.

As different governments encourage others to wean their financial affairs off the greenback and regain their economic sovereignty, the U.S. imposed sanctions and the method in which Washington weaponized its dollar looks certainly likely to backfire on the United States.

The removal of the U.S. dollar as a dominant foreign currency will save more civilian lives around the world and help bring about global peace and security.

And it has deepened anti-American sentiment among politicians in Iraq, which remains unstable nearly 20 years after a U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein.

The U.S. is also targeting Iran’s other major trade partners. On Monday, the Biden administration’s top Iran envoy said it will increase pressure on China to cease imports of Iranian oil.

China is the main destination of exports by Iran, and talks to dissuade Beijing from the purchases are “going to be intensified,” U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley told Bloomberg Television.

The U.S. reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic and its petroleum exports in 2018 after pulling out of the nuclear agreement, with then president Donald Trump pledging that Washington was set to bring Iran’s oil exports down to zero.

That goal never realized, with Iranian sales continuing to reach the market despite the U.S. “maximum pressure” to curb them.

“We have not lessened any of our sanctions against Iran and in particular regards to Iran’s sale of oil,” Malley said.

Iranian crude shipments have surged in recent months, including to China, the world’s biggest importer.

Malley said the US will “take steps that we need to take in order to stop the export of Iranian oil and deter countries from buying it”.

(Source: Press TV)

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Türkiye summons Dutch ambassador over ‘vile attack’ on Quran

Türkiye on Tuesday summoned the Dutch ambassador in Ankara Joep Wijnands over “a vile attack” on the Quran, Islam’s holy book, in The Hague.

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms the vile attack of an anti-Islamic person in The Hague, Netherlands, on January 22, targeting our holy book, the Quran,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“This despicable act, which, after Sweden, took place this time in the Netherlands, insulting our sacred values and containing a hate crime, is a clear declaration that Islamophobia, discrimination, and xenophobia know no bounds in Europe,” it added.

These actions directly target the fundamental rights and freedoms, moral values, ??and social tolerance of not only Muslims but all humanity and it also harms the culture of living together in peace, the statement stressed.

Ambassador Wijnands was told that Türkiye condemns “the heinous and despicable act,” and demands that the Netherlands does not allow such “provocative acts.” “We expect the Dutch authorities to take necessary actions against the perpetrator of the incident and to implement concrete measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents,” it added.

The statement came after Edwin Wagensveld, a far-right Dutch politician and the leader of the Islamophobic group Pegida, on Sunday tore out pages from a copy of the Quran in The Hague. Wagensveld’s video on Twitter showed that he burned the torn-out pages of the holy book in a pan.

It followed a protest in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm on Saturday, which included the burning of a copy of the Quran with both police protection and permission from the Swedish government, which Türkiye condemned as a “provocative act” of “hate crime.”

### At least 7 dead in second California mass shooting

Several people were killed in the northern coastal city of Half Moon Bay on Monday, about 30 miles south of San Francisco.

In a late news briefing, Sheriff Christina Corpus named Monday’s suspect as 67-year-old resident Chunli Zhao.

She said deputies had found him in his vehicle in the parking lot of the sheriff’s substation.

“Zhao was taken into custody without incident and a semiautomatic handgun was located in his vehicle. Zhao is believed to have acted alone and there is no further threat to this community. This is a devastating tragedy for this community and the families touched by this unspeakable act of violence.”

Corpus said officers responding to a call found at least seven people shot dead in two locations near each other in Half Moon Bay.

She added that police did not yet know the motive for the killings.

Eleven people were killed in the earlier shooting in southern California, in the city of Monterey Park in Los Angeles County.

### Israeli minister visits UAE ahead of Netanyahu trip

An Israeli minister has made a secret trip to the United Arab Emirates ahead of a possible visit to the Persian Gulf state by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media reports say.

Ron Dermer, Israel’s strategic affairs minister, travelled on Sunday to Abu Dhabi, where he met senior officials, the Israeli news website Walla reported on Monday. Alongside Dermer was National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi.

The trip would be the first by an Israeli minister to the UAE since the new Israeli government came into power at the end of December.

Netanyahu had been expected to make a visit to the UAE shortly after he returned to the premiership, but the entrance of his provocative national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in January led to the cancellation of the UAE trip, according to Israeli media outlets.

The UAE issued a public condemnation of Ben-Gvir’s actions at the time.

On his trip to the UAE, Dermer tried to allay some of its government’s concerns regarding Ben-Gvir and other far-right members of the Israeli government, according to the reports.

Israel and the UAE normalised ties in 2020 under the United States-brokered Abraham Accords and have since strengthened their relations, including by signing a free trade agreement in May.

Dermer served as Israel’s ambassador to the US when the accords were signed.

Naftali Bennett, a right-wing politician who succeeded Netanyahu as prime minister in 2021, became the first Israeli leader to make a state visit to the UAE in December of the same year before visiting again for talks in June last year.

### Former Lebanon PM Diab charged in Beirut blast investigation

The judge investigating the 2020 Beirut port explosion has charged Lebanon’s then-prime minister, Hassan Diab, and two other former ministers with homicide with probable intent, according to a court summons seen by the Reuters news agency.

Other top officials, including the country’s public prosecutor and the head of the domestic intelligence agency, were also charged in connection with the blast, judicial sources said on Tuesday.

Judge Tarek Bitar, who has unexpectedly resumed an inquiry that has been paralysed by high-level political resistance, has scheduled questioning with Prosecutor General Ghassan Oweidat for February.

However, the public prosecutor’s office has disputed Bitar’s authority to issue the charges, according to correspondence seen by Reuters.

Bitar’s efforts to interrogate top officials over the explosion, which killed at least 218 people and shattered parts of Beirut, have been hindered by rival factions. Bitar charged Major General Abbas Ibrahim, head of Lebanon’s domestic intelligence agency, and Major General Tony Saliba, head of another security body, in connection with the blast as well as former army commander Jean Kahwaji. Judicial officials said, without specifying the charges.



French bakers on Monday staged an angry march through the streets of Paris to demand the government step up financial support to compensate for hikes in electricity bills and the cost of raw materials such as flour, sugar and butter.



## Tourism and cultural heritage key areas for economic prosperity, MP says



TEHRAN – Tourism, cultural heritage and handicrafts are three key areas for Iran's economic prosperity, a member of the Iranian parliament has said.

“The development of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts leads to the creation of useful opportunities for the country's economic development,” CHTN quoted Alireza Shahbazi as saying on Tuesday.

As each of these three crucial areas grows and prospers, income for the economy and ultimately the country's self-sufficiency will be generated, the official added.

According to a biennial report released by

the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) in September, Iran ranked 19th out of 185 countries in the 2021 Travel & Tourism Total Contribution to GDP Index.

The Islamic Republic comes 19th with \$48.1 billion in the 2021 Travel & Tourism Total Contribution to GDP Index, standing between South Korea and Switzerland, which were ranked 18th and 20th with GDP contributions of \$48.8 billion and \$44.5 billion, respectively.

The U.S., China, Germany, Japan, and Italy were named the top five countries of the same index. The figures from WTTTC, which represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector, come from its 2021 Economic Impact Report (EIR), which lays bare the devastating impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Earning \$33.3 billion, Iran was ranked 16th in the 2021 index for Domestic Visitor Spending, standing between Russia and the Philippines, which fetched \$39.6 billion and 32.8 billion correspondingly.

In 2019, Iran was ranked 17th in the same index, with \$37.1 billion of income generated by domestic visitor spending.

## Kish preparing for Noruz holidays

TEHRAN – In preparation for the Noruz holidays, which start on March 21, the Persian Gulf island of Kish in southern Iran is getting ready to welcome visitors from across the country.

It is estimated that Kish will receive 237,000 tourists during this period, based on all the existing infrastructure, facilities and services, including hotels and passenger camps and tourism services, a local tourism official has said.

Some 30 percent of travelers stayed in hotels last year, and the rest stayed in travelers' camps, guesthouses, and homes of island residents, IRNA quoted Morteza Ramezani as saying on Tuesday.

With the cooperation of the hotelier community, better services will be provided in these centers this year, the official added.

During the Noruz holiday, there will be more than 50 hotels on this island that can accommodate 20,000 passengers every day, he noted.

Amongst the Persian Gulf islands, Kish is the more luxurious and developed. Except for its unique nature, such as its waters and shallow



beaches, the tourist attractions of this charming island are due to its rich historical background as well as its kind and hospitable people.

The pristine and beautiful nature, the meeting of land and sea, the clear sky, the pleasant air, and the pleasurable reverberation of the waves create such a sense of calm that one cannot even distinguish between imagination and reality.

Nowadays, about one million foreign and domestic tourists travel to the island every year and it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iran as it has magnificent attractions such as Kariz Underground City, Hareh Ancient City, Marjan Beach, Bird Garden, Ocean theme park, and Grand Recreational Pier.

## Relics dating to 2nd millennium BC recovered by police

TEHRAN– Iranian authorities have recently recovered relics estimated to date from the second millennium BC.

Police have recently found four bronze objects from a car during their regular inspections of cultural heritage properties in the Sanandaj county of Kordestan province, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

The police detained two people in that regard and surrendered them to the judicial system for further investigation.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), that name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

and Korea so far have wall paintings.

Almost half of these tombs are located on this site and they are thought to have been made for the burial of kings, members of the royal family, and the aristocracy.

The Complex of Koguryo Tombs represents an exceptional testimony to the Koguryo culture, its burial customs, daily life, and beliefs. The special burial customs of this culture had an important influence on other cultures in the region, including those of Japan.

# Ashuradeh; a heavenly realm for birdwatchers



From Page 1 ► Fox, jackals, wild cats, pigs, wild horses, and other animals are among the island's fauna. Aquatic creatures like salmon and starry sturgeon, as

well as native and migratory birds like pheasant, white and black geese, flamingos, and pelicans, also call this environment home. Raspberry bushes and bitter pomegranate trees are just a

couple of the plants that make up Ashuradeh's vegetation.

Some experts believe that the opportunity for birdwatching tours has been greatly enhanced

by the presence of migratory birds as well as rare bird species that are wintering in and around the island, including Gorgan Bay.

Birdwatching, the practice of observing real birds in their natural habitat, is a popular pastime and scientific activity that emerged almost entirely in the 20th century.

When the migration season ends in about mid-May, the south Caspian Sea retreat will still be dominated by its northern visitors. Over a larger area, the southern sandy shorelines of the Caspian Sea, which stretch for about 700km, are estimated to have a mid-winter bird population of over a million.

Pelicans, flamingos, ducks, swans, coots, and other migratory birds frequent the freshwater lakes, wetlands, and lagoons in the northern provinces of Gilan, Golestan, and Mazandaran.

## UNESCO-designated Takht-e Soleyman to turn more tourist friendly

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman, which was once a prime fire temple of the Zoroastrian faith in ancient Persia, seeks to develop tourism infrastructure, a local official said on Tuesday.

So far, 37 billion rials (some \$88,000) has been spent to rebuild travel amenities at the ancient site while extra efforts are currently underway to make it more tourist-friendly, said Amir Matloubi who presides over Takab's office for tourism and cultural heritage.

In the past few years, many measures have been taken to strengthen the tourism infrastructure of the World Heritage site, the official said.

“Increasing the capacity of parking lots, restoration of sanitary facilities and four kilometers of walkways connecting other attractions such as a waterfall, spa and a floating island were among projects competed so far.”

Overlooking a lake with a backdrop of a snowcapped highland, the ancient interweaves a scenic natural context with a rich harmonious composition.

Situated in Takab county of West Azarbaijan province, Takht-e Soleyman is now a major travel destination for domestic and foreign travelers who want, even for minutes, to experience its peaceful atmosphere.

Takht-e Soleyman reveals architectural achievements of outstanding universal values, which, from artistic, religious, mythical, and historical points of view, emerge from the synergy of a man-made and spectacular natural setting.

Ancient Iranians established the ensemble in a geologically anomalous location where the base of the temple complex sits on an oval mound roughly 350 by 550 meters.

The ceremonial complex encompasses a lake roughly 80 by 120 meters and a Sassanid-era Zoroastrian temple complex dedicated to Anahita, an ancient goddess of fertility, parts of which were rebuilt in the 13th century during the Ilkhanid era.

In the 13th century, Takht-e Soleyman became a summer retreat for the Mongol Ilkhanid khans. The remnants of their hunting palace are now covered with a discordant modern roof forming



a storeroom (often locked) for amphorae, unlabelled column fragments, photos, and a couple of ceramic sections of those ancient gas pipes.

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, its surrounding landscape was probably first inhabited sometime in the 1st millennium BC. Some construction on the mound itself dates from the early Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), and there are traces of settlement activity from the Parthian period.

## Literary tourism still untapped in Hamedan

TEHRAN – Hamedan province holds an enormous potential to develop literary tourism, a local tourism official has said.

As Hamedan has many cultural, scientific, and artistic personalities, literary tourism can bring this province to national and international attention, Saheb Mohammadian explained on Tuesday.

Having a rich historical and cultural background as well as famous cultural and literary attractions, Hamedan can attract cultural tourists and Iranian literature enthusiasts, the official added.

Literary tourism is a type of cultural tourism and occurs when authors or



their literature become so popular that people are drawn to either those locations associated with the author such as their birthplace, home, graveside, or those featured within their writings.

Known in classical times as

Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamedan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

About 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongols. In 1386 it

was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer, the air is often hazy.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

## Yasuj to host snow festival



TEHRAN –The southwestern Iranian city of Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, will be hosting a snow festival, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The 5th edition of the Dena snow festival is planned to be held in Yasuj ski resort on Thursday and Friday, Farshid Karami explained on Tuesday.

The festival aims at developing tourism in the region as well as generating job opportunities

## Ghalamzani: ancient expertise in metal engraving

TEHRAN – Ghalamzani is the splendid art of engraving superb designs on various kinds of metals such as copper, brass, silver, and gold by the means of carving chisels.

It seems that the history of engraving has not been too far from the time when man discovered and used the metals. The ancient samples are being kept in the National Museum of Iran and other ones across the globe, some dating 3000 years.

Isfahan has long been the main hub for ancient expertise, where artists make a range of gold and

silver dishes stunningly decorated with animals and scenes of hunting.

A typical artist meticulously uses a chisel and hammer to carve out every detail to engrave vivid scenes. Experts say the artistic movement of the engraver's hand and the harmonized blows of the hammer and engraving tool will be finally led to creating a unique job.

However, the material will be decorated and embellished after it has already been shaped by another talented artist using a hammer and anvil.

Modern-day metal dish preparation is occasionally handled by machinery due to the difficult work and advancing age of the masters.

Following the artist's completion of the pattern drawing, the back of the piece is coated with tar and baked along with other materials. Next, the main lines of the design are traced using carving chisels. From this point on, it may take the artist weeks or even months to complete the design, which was once just an idea in his head.



TEHRAN – Kani Barazan International Wetland, located in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, is hosting more than 30,000 migratory birds for wintering.

The unprecedented entry of migratory birds into the wetland is due to the revival of parts of the wetland, the existence of security and sufficient food, and the arrival of the cold wave and snowfall in other parts of the country.

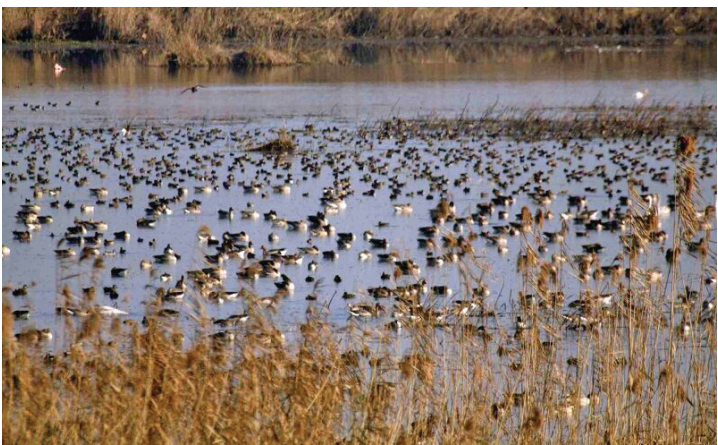
Kani Barazan was once recorded as the first bird-sighting site in the country and birdwatchers call it Iran's bird paradise.

With the release of water from the Mahabad dam and the restoration of the springs supplying water to Kanibrazan, the water condition of the wetland is now favorable, IRNA reported.

Migratory and native birds can be seen in a span of 100 hectares of Kani Barazan, where the water is deep enough.

This year, due to the fact that after passing a month in winter, heavy snowfall and a noticeable drop in temperature did not occur in the region and the water level of the wetland has not yet frozen, migratory birds such as gray geese and swans can still be seen.

Swans, gray geese, a number of endangered species such as white-headed ducks and marbled ducks, and other types of migratory birds including terns, anguts, herons, broad-billed ducks, green ducks, and gulls were observed in the wetland.



## Kani Barazan wetland hosting thousands of migratory birds

Stretching to 907 hectares, Kani Barazan wetland is home to various bird species including, flamingo, little cormorant, great white pelican, stilt, sternidae, great crested grebe, graylag goose, lesser white-fronted goose, heron, common shelduck and etc.

Its high capabilities, diverse vegetation, and the annual migration of 200,000 species of birds have made this wetland a precious bird-watching site for nature lovers.

So far, 75 species of water birds belonging to 11 families have been

identified in this wetland, which will reach more than 180 species counting terrestrial species.

Drought and lack of water rights caused the loss of 70 percent of the wetland, causing negative environmental effects with the beginning of the bird migration season.

The water of this wetland is supplied from the Mahabad river, the spring of "Qarahdagh" village, the speed of water entry is in a good condition due to dredging.

Agricultural effluents and chemical fertilizers, entering the

water body is a major threat to the wetland and its aquatic species and birds.

### Wetland ecosystem

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our fresh water. More than 40 percent of freshwater fish are said to live in wetlands.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Iran is rich in terms of having a variety of wetlands due to its climatic diversity. In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Of Iran's 25 Ramsar sites about one-third are under pressure or in critical condition.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth.



strategies for technology development in the field of medicinal plants.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology is responsible for policy-making, coordination, monitoring, preparation, and formulation of operational plans, directing and following up interactions between the public and private sectors, and providing material and spiritual support for science, information, and so on.

The document seeks to achieve "20 percent of the value of the country's medicine market by herbal medicines and natural products", "20 percent of the market value of the country's veterinary medicine", and "increase exports of medicinal plants and herbal products to be among the top 10 countries in the world", "3 percent share of the production of science in the field of medicinal plants".

By combining the above plans, a comprehensive roadmap for the implementation of the document, which includes 360 separate operational plans, has been prepared and compiled.

In Iran, the area under cultivation of medicinal plants has reached more than 250,000 hectares.

Other measures in this area include increasing the number of knowledge-based and creative companies to 700, increasing health centers to 60, and producing more than 5,000 herbal products.

## Medicinal herbs industry needs long-term planning: VP

TEHRAN – Vice President for Science and Technology, Rouhollah Dehghani, has said the medicinal herbs industry needs long-term planning.

The production of medicinal plants and their economic value should be defined within a framework with a specified operational dimension, and each of the measures should be followed by the relevant institution, he added.

"We are serious about compensating the existing backlogs and we use all the material and spiritual tools and capabilities in this field," IRNA quoted Dehghani as saying.

Several important measures, including the establishment of a medicinal plant refinery, should be followed up by the vice presidency in cooperation with executive bodies, he stressed.

One of the plans of the Ministry of Health is to compensate for medical treatment using herbal medicines.

In this line, 60 items of herbal medicines have so far been covered by insurance, Nafiseh Hosseini Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office has said.

One of the problems the patients faced was the high price of herbal medicine prescribed by medical experts, she stated.

Stating that traditional medicine should be cheap and accessible to patients, she added that gradually, other herbal medicinal items will be added to the insurance coverage.

One of the general and basic policies of the Health Ministry is the development of Persian medicine tourism, and the necessary interactions with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts have been carried out in this regard, she announced.

Iran signed three memorandums of un-

derstanding with Serbia, Venezuela, and Iraq for the development of technologies in medicinal plants, natural products, and traditional medicine.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 6th National Festival and Exhibition of Medicinal Plants, Natural Products, and Iranian Traditional Medicine which was held in Tehran on November 1-4, 2022 with the presence of 240 companies.

Business delegations from Russia, Serbia, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Venezuela, Oman, India, and Gambia attended the exhibition.

Serbia, Brunei, Belarus, and Iraq were among the countries interested in meeting their needs through Iranian knowledge-based companies.

After negotiations, Serbia requested to import Iranian products, especially herbal supplements, cosmetics, and medicinal products.

Also, the result of negotiations with Iraq reached a stage where Iranian knowledge-based products in the field of medicinal plants will be exported to the neighboring country.

Brunei also announced its readiness to use Iranian knowledge-based products.

The export revenue of medicinal plants is estimated at \$700 million.

Out of 2,500 medicinal plants, 1,800 of them are endemic to Iran.

The country with its own strong history of traditional medicine and a rich ecosystem of medicinal plants has a huge opportunity for increasing share in the national and global market.

### National document for development

A national document has been prepared to define perspectives, macro policies, and

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Men with obese wives at higher risk of cardiovascular disease: study

The results of a 16-year study at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran showed that men whose wives were obese or overweight had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Farzad Hadaegh, the lead researcher of the study, said that couples share socioeconomic status, dietary patterns, and other environmental and lifestyle factors, but are genetically unrelated.

The results of this study emphasize the role of environmental factors, especially lifestyle behaviors of family members in the incidence of cardiovascular disease, and this may help to identify early at-risk individuals in the community and family to implement prevention programs, he explained.

## خطر ابتلا به بیماری‌های قلبی عروقی در مردانی که همسران آنها چاق هستند بیشتر است

نتیجه یک پژوهش ۱۶ ساله در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید بهشتی تهران نشان داد خطر ابتلا به بیماری‌های قلبی عروقی در مردانی که همسران آنها چاق یا دارای اضافه وزن بودند، نسبت به مردانی که همسران شان وزن طبیعی داشت، بیشتر است و جالب اینکه این ارتباط مستقل از عوامل خطر مردان است. دکتر فرزاد حدائق، مدیر مرکز تحقیقات متابولیک دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید بهشتی، در این مورد توضیح داد: زوجین در موقعیت‌های اقتصادی - اجتماعی، الگوهای غذایی و سایر عوامل محیطی و سبک زندگی مشترک اند، اما از نظر ژنتیکی بی ارتباط هستند. این استاد دانشگاه خاطر نشان کرد: نتایج این مطالعه به نقش عوامل محیطی به ویژه رفتارهای مربوط به سبک زندگی اعضای خانواده در بروز بیماری‌های قلبی عروقی تاکید می کند و این موضوع ممکن است به شناسایی زودهنگام افراد در معرض خطر در جامعه و خانواده برای اجرای برنامه های پیشگیری کمک موثری کند.

## Serbia seeking Iran's expertise in organ transplantation, genetics

From page 1 ► health minister of Serbia, it was decided to exchange experiences in this field."

"In this line, we are ready to expand joint research and academic projects between the two countries."

Nicknam referred to the exchange of students as one of the topics discussed in the meeting with the Serbian official, noting that 70 Iranians are studying in the educational centers of Serbia.

Iranian universities are ready to accept Serbian students in short-term courses, he added.

He pointed to the help of Serbia to Iran during the coronavirus pandemic and said that Serbia sent two shipments of vaccine to Iran at that time.

Nicknam also touched on the cooperation between Belgrade University and Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, saying: "The Serbian side requested that more information about medical innovations made by knowledge-based companies be provided to them."

The two sides discussed various types of procedures such as organ transplantation, cell therapy, and cosmetic surgery, in which the Islamic Republic of Iran has great expertise, and their costs are cheaper than in other countries.

It was decided that the Serbian side should present a list of their needs according to their priorities and hold a webinar on these fields with Iran. After that, a memorandum of understanding between the two countries would be completed and signed.

### Health diplomacy

Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said.

In October 2021, World Health Organization



(WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain, said that Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers.

They have also played an effective role in improving life expectancy, reducing the death of pregnant women, improving the health status and disease index in the last 40 years, etc.

The World Health Organization believes that the improvement of health indicators in the villages of Iran and the reduction of the gap between the health indicators in rural and urban areas are due to the activity of health care providers.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has increased the health sector's budget by 29 percent compared to the current year's budget.

The bill has proposed a budget of 2,730 trillion rials (about \$6.8 billion) for the Ministry of Health.

## RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

### Part 50

The vast sedge marshes are the stronghold of zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) in Iran. Raptors are abundant in winter, and include black kite (*Milvus migrans*), white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), greater spotted eagle (*A. clanga*), saker (*Falco cherrug*), peregrine (*F. peregrinus*) and merlin (*F. columbarius*).

Breeding birds include marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), white-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), moustached warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) and clamorous reed warbler (*A. stentoreus*).

A variety of landbirds typical of the Gulf coastal plain occur in the surrounding scrub and date gardens. At least 149 species of birds have been recorded in the reserve. Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) are common in the reserve.

### Social and cultural values

The harvest of reeds is of considerable importance in the local economy and there is some subsistence fishing and livestock grazing. In the south the river is used for shipping traffic.

### Current land use

There is some subsistence fishing going on, reed-cutting on a large scale in mid-summer to provide materials for thatching and weaving, and extensive grazing by domestic livestock.

Part of the wetland is cultivated in privately owned rice paddies. A major oil terminal is located at Bandar Shahpur to the southeast, and there is a considerable amount of shipping traffic in the south, and from the ports of Khorramshahr, Bandar Mashur and Bandar Shahpur.

Large areas of mudflats in the south are extremely difficult to access and not used at all. There are a few small settlements with date gardens.

The main highway from Ahwaz to Abadan passes along the west side of the site, while the main highway from Abadan to the port of Bandar Shahpur runs from west to east across the southern edges of the marshes.

### Factors adversely affecting ecology

The principal long-term threat to the marshes is diminished water supply as a result of diversion of water for irrigation schemes further north.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



## Curing animals for free

In the city of Kermanshah, western Iran, there is a veterinary clinic in which doctors treat injured animals free of charge.

Protecting and respecting animals is everyone's duty that needs to be promoted as a culture.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter paradise.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times» Noon:12:16

Evening: 17:42

Dawn: 5:42 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 7:09 (tomorrow)

## Adab in Iran

### Part 3

In historiography likewise, the Iranians of course had a long tradition, though it was characterized by their own familiar style of mingling historical facts with legends, fabulous notions, and religious beliefs, the most important example being the Khaday-namag.

Here again Masudi praises the Iranians for their careful transmission of the history of their ancestors.

The labeling of three categories of adab as “Arabian” in the list ascribed to Hasan ibn Sahl probably arose because the Arabs were unable to accept all the categories of Iranian adab in its Sassanid form and felt obliged either to modify those elements which they found too specifically Iranian in language and substance or to replace them with pre-existing Arab elements.

This is clearly true of poetry and genealogy, two branches in which the Arabs possessed long-standing traditions of their own, and also of religious learning, which was later to become another category of adab.

In any case, Hasan ibn Sahl’s reported statement covers only a few of the many categories of Sassanid adab.

The Sassanian categories of adab, i.e., the things that a well-bred young man ought to know after completing a full education, are listed in the Pahlavi book Xusraw ud ridak and in its Arabic version in Ta’alebi’s Ghorar as follows:

Knowledge of religion (din), i.e., knowledge and memorization of the Yashts, Yasna, Vendidad, etc. The supposition of Tavadia (Die mittelpersische Sprache) that this is a later addition to the book seems improbable; in view of the incorporation of religious knowledge into adab in the subsequent Islamic period, it is unlikely that adab was wholly uninfluenced by religion in the Sassanid period.

Knowledge of literate composition (dabiri “scribeship”), calligraphy, history, and philosophy. Knowledge of clothes, i.e., how to choose fine and tasteful garments suitable for the different seasons.

Knowledge of beds and bedclothes, i.e., of the specifications of the most comfortable beds. Knowledge of sports, such as horsemanship, archery, spearmanship, polo, and hammer throwing.

Knowledge of music, singing, and poetry, which together constitute the art of minstrelsy. This included ability to recognize and play instruments such as vina (win), lyre (barbat), lute (tanbur), zither (kennar), and flute (nay), and to choose the best instruments. (The best for women is the harp [chang]—an opinion frequently endorsed in the Shahnameh. In Xusraw ud ridak there is no mention of the most suitable instrument for men, but from certain passages in the Shahnameh, it would appear that the lute is the most suitable for men other than professional players.)

Also included is knowledge of the musical modes and types of melody, etc. Knowledge of the stars. Knowledge of games, including chess, backgammon, and several others which cannot be identified.

Knowledge of cookery (khaligari), including flavors, sorts and cuts of the

meat of wild and domestic animals and birds, ways of preparing meats and making different dishes with them, desserts, jams, pastes, etc.

This section is intended not only to enumerate foods but also to impart good taste, and is really not about eating but about tasting; it thus has a certain importance as an illustration of refinement in Sassanid adab.

The frequency of technical uses of the word maza (taste) in Persian demonstrates that study of taste was one of the subjects in which adepts of adab in the Sassanid period were interested.

Knowledge of fruit: Knowledge of wines, their types and best sorts, the delicacies to be served with wine, and the proprieties to be observed in wine drinking.

Knowledge of water, i.e., of the most salubrious kinds of water. Knowledge of flowers, their varieties and their scents. Numerous flowers and perfume are mentioned.

The likening of perfumes to friends, relatives and social groups probably both reflects contemporary use of flowers and symbolizes refinement of feeling in family and social relations.

Knowledge of perfume in this section has the same significance as knowledge of taste in the section on cookery. (Colors of flowers are compared with those of jewels in Sassanid poetry and in sayings ascribed to Ardashir and Anushiravan.)

Knowledge of women, i.e., of moral virtues and above all of facial and figural beauty in women. Knowledge of mounts (sotur), i.e., of riding and of pack animals such as horses, mules, and camels.

The themes appearing in Xusraw ud ridak are confirmed and amplified in other books. The Shahnameh deals mainly with the education and culture of princes and heroes.

When the youthful Zal seeks the approval of King Manuchehr for his marriage to Rudابه, he first must convince the king and the nobles of the adequacy of his education.

In the king’s presence, he is tested by the priests (mubads) on his knowledge of the stars, his way of life, and his attitude to death.

After passing these tests, he is sent to the tournament field to display before the brave warriors his prowess in spearmanship, club-wielding, archery, wrestling, and horse-racing.

When Rostam is charged with the upbringing of Siavosh, he takes him to Zabol and teaches him how to ride horses, shoot with bows, hunt wild beasts, train falcons, drink wine, behave decently, speak properly, exert authority, and handle troops.

Similarly Bahman, Ardashir, Bahram Gur, and others are trained by men of culture in these skills and further specialties such as polo, chess, dabiri, knowledge of history, and knowledge of the Avesta.

In addition to the Shahnameh, other Persian epics and romances shed light on the categories of the adab which well-bred persons had to learn.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued.

# 2023 Abolhassan Najafi Award announces finalists

From Page 1 ► The novel is about Hollywood and its corrupting touch and the American dream that turned into a sun-drenched California nightmare.

A Persian translation of Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury’s novel “Gate of the Sun” by Narges Qandilzadeh has also been nominated.

It tells the story of Yunes, an aging Palestinian freedom fighter, who lies in a coma. Keeping vigil at the old man’s bedside is his spiritual son, Khalil, who nurses Yunes, refusing to admit that his hero may never regain consciousness.

Another highlight of the nominees is a translation of British novelist Marina Lewycka’s humorous novel “A Short History of Tractors in Ukraine”.

The novel describes the reactions of two daughters when their widowed 84-year-old father Nikolai marries a highly beautiful and much younger Ukrainian immigrant, Valentina.

Sara Palidi’s translation of “P.S. I Love You”, Irish novelist Cecelia Ahern’s novel about holding on, letting go and learning to love again, is also contending for the award.

A translation by Vazrik Der-Sahakian of Italian writer Indro Montanelli’s novel “General Della Rovere” is also on the list.

## Boynton Beach kinetic biennial picks works by Iranian artist Mohammadreza Yazdi



“Cradle of the Time” (2015) by Mohammadreza Yazdi.

TEHRAN – Iranian artist Mohammadreza Yazdi will showcase a number of his works at the 6th International Kinetic Biennial.

The free art exhibit and symposium of artists, designers and performers will be held on January 28 and 29 in Boynton Beach, a city in the U.S. state of Florida.

The kinetic art biennial demonstrates the

## Beata Stawarska’s book on Saussure’s linguistics published in Persian

TEHRAN – “Saussure’s Linguistics, Structuralism and Phenomenology: The Course in General Linguistics after a Century” by Beata Stawarska has been published in Persian.

Sahand Elhami is the translator of the book published by Markaz.

This is the first English-language guidebook geared at an interdisciplinary audience that reflects relevant scholarly developments related to the legacy and legitimacy of Ferdinand de Saussure’s Course in General Linguistics (1916) today.



A combination photo shows the front covers of the nominees for the 2023 Abolhassan Najafi Award.

It is about an Italian confidence man who turns into an unintentional hero while impersonating a patriot imprisoned by the Nazis.

Hanieh Pedram is also competing for the award with her translation of American novelist writer Carson McCullers’s 1946 novel “The Member of the Wedding”.

Also among the nominees are

a translation of French author Emile Zola’s 1867 novel “Thérèse Raquin” by Mohammad Nejabati and a rendition of Ecuadorian writer Mauro Javier Cardenas’s 2016 novel “The Revolutionaries Try Again” by Tahura Ayati.

The Abolhassan Najafi Award is a private Iranian literary prize that is given to a Persian translator of a novel or short

story collection every year.

The winner will be announced during a special ceremony at the Book City Institute in Tehran next week.

The award was established in the name of Abolhassan Najafi (1930–2016), a linguist and translator of French literature, by his family and the Book City Institute in 2016.

interconnectedness of art and technology and leverages human fascination with movement.

Kinetic art is art from any medium that contains movement perceivable by the viewer or that depends on motion for its effect. Canvas paintings that extend the viewer’s perspective of the artwork and incorporate multidimensional movement are the earliest examples of kinetic art.

Yazdi began his career when he was a university student and deeply attached to the movements and changes of living organisms, he said in an introduction to his exhibition at the biennial.

Athletic figures inspired his work at the beginning and his participation in several major international art events encouraged him to work on other more serious projects.

“In my opinion, motion and in general kinetic art have brought dynamism into my artworks due to forms and their functions,” he said.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Beata Stawarska’s book “Saussure’s Linguistics, Structuralism, and Phenomenology”.

It critically assesses the relation between materials from the course and from the linguist’s Nachlass (works unpublished or even unknown at Saussure’s death, some of them recently discovered).

This book pays close attention to the set of oppositional pairings: the signifier and the signified, la langue (language system) and la parole (speech), and synchrony and diachrony, which became the hallmark of structuralism across the humanities.

Sometimes referred to as the “Saussurean doctrine,” this

“Accordingly, I can say that in the series ‘First Explosion’, visitors closely encounter my sculpture creating an interactive space,” he added.

“This correlation is directly connected to the visitors, suggesting they deliberately shake the sculpture or make some movements,” he explained.

“Flying” and “Deep Breathing” are also among the numerous projects carried out by Yazdi.

“Iranian architecture and visual culture during the Islamic period are two major sources of inspiration for me,” he noted.

This attitude causes him to collaborate closely with interior designers, architects and engineers, including Farhad Purkhorsandi and Hamidreza Maghari and Morteza Qavami.

He believes that there is a significant relationship between architecture, interior design and sculpture and his artworks represent the interaction between them.

## The story of a woman who had a certain resistance and insight in “Sareh”

### An interview with Hussain Shirdel

In the book “Sarah”, you read the memoirs of Sara Nikkho, the wife of martyred commander Ali Khodadad, written by Hasan and Hussein Shirdel.

The book has a pleasant flow and expression that takes you to the world of hopes, dreams, and sufferings of a martyr’s wife. In this book, Sareh Nikkho tells about her childhood years, her school days during the years of revolution and the imposed war, as well as her married life with commander Ali Khodadad.

#### \* What sort of book is “Sareh”?

In Mazandaran, we designed plans to commemorate the former fighters, and unlike earlier works that dealt with martyrs’ wives as just wives, we developed an idea with “Sareh” no one had attempted before.

We wanted someone to write her own biography and memories, and in fact, “Sareh” is more of the memories of Sareh Nikkho than the memories of her martyred husband.

\* What feature of Sareh Nikkho stands out in this book?

“Sarah” is about the life and tolerance of a person who has been constantly in the war. The story of Sara Nikkho’s resistance and foresight and the plan she had in her life are the most important features of this book.

‘Sarah’ has only been written about the wife of a martyr and is a biography of this woman only, no reference to her husband is made in the book.

\* The memories of this book are related to which part of her life?

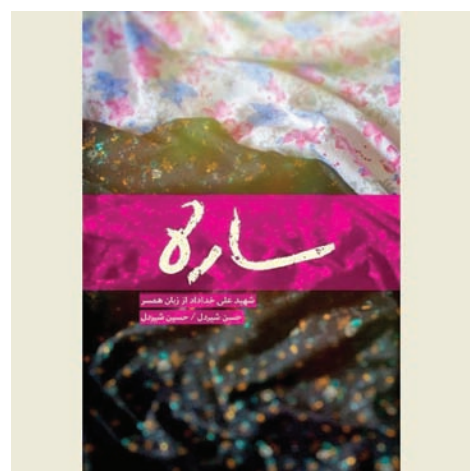
The book begins with Sareh’s childhood, followed by her meeting her husband, having a family, etc. This narrative does not focus on her husband as a central character. As she raises her children, the story continues.

\* For the book, how long did it take to conduct the interviews?

We had about 37 hours of interviews with Sareh Nikkho and it took a year and a half to finish the book.

\* What is the most important aspect of this book?

Everything in this work has been based on



reality and detailed enough. In order to convey to the audience that “Sareh” is a book written by a Mazandarani, we preserved the native language of Mazandaran and explained the meaning of each word.

For the first time, we included vernacular language in memoir writing and maybe that is the reason why this book got so much attention.