

Jenin's Revenge by the Son of Quds

▶ Page 5

Video released of 5 police officers beating Tyre Nichols in state of Tennessee

Video of Tyre Nichols' beating by five Memphis Police Department (MPD) officers was released Friday in the US state of Tennessee as the nation braces for civil unrest.

The video shows the now-former officers initially pulling over Nichols, 29, during a traffic stop.

The officers throw him to the ground, try to cuff him and use a taser, before Nichols escapes and runs away.

A short time later, officers tracked down Nichols, pepper-spray him continuously as he was screaming, then threw him to the ground, hold him down and begin kicking him in the head area.

The officers pull Nichols to his feet as he is screaming for his mother and punch and strike him with a baton until he lies lifeless.

No first aid was rendered to Nichols as he lies on the ground writhing in pain and looking nearly lifeless.

The officers then drag Nichols across the ground and prop him up against a police car while discussing that Nichols grabbed for one of their guns. ▶ Page 5

Iran FM says Azerbaijan embassy attack fueled on personal grounds

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Iranian Foreign Minister, has denounced the armed attack on Azerbaijan's embassy in Tehran on Friday morning, suggesting foes should not be permitted to exploit the situation.

Abdollahian also stressed that it was not an act of terrorism.

In a phone call with Jeyhun Bayramov, the foreign minister of Azerbaijan, on Friday, Amir Abdollahian underlined, "We should not allow this incident to have any detrimental influence on relations between the two nations." ▶ Page 2

Interview

Ghasempour dissatisfied with Hector Cuper's speculation

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Former member of Iran Football Federation's technical happy, Ebrahim Ghasempour, is not happy with the speculation that the federation has been linked with ex-Valencia coach Hector Cuper.

With the contract of 2022 World Cup head coach Carlos Queiroz having expired after poor results at the tournament, fans of the Iran football national team have been wondering when a new head coach will be named so that Team Melli can truly begin moving toward the upcoming competitions.

The crucial condition of the national team, which have seen four coaches from 2019 to 2023, namely Queiroz, Marc Wilmots, Dragan Skocic, and again Queiroz, the importance of the hiring process for a new coach is increased. ▶ Page 3



**Ayatollah Khamenei visits
industrial exhibition**

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, paid a three-hour visit to an industrial exhibition on Saturday morning.

The exhibition was held in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah and covered activities in different fields.

This exhibition was held in accordance with this year's slogan, which the Leader had previously announced to be, "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating," according to khamenei.ir.

In this exhibition, domestic capabilities were showcased in the fields of mining and

exploration, electronics and telecommunications, aerospace and satellites, automobiles, agriculture and food, railway transportation, roads, sea and air transportation, the housing sector, the oil and petrochemical industry, household appliances, textiles, the aquaculture industry, ▶ Page 3

Iran's nominal power generation capacity exceeds 90,000 MW

TEHRAN – With the inauguration of a new thermal power plant in southwestern Iran, the nominal capacity of the country's power plants has exceeded 90,000 megawatts (MW), an official with the country's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) announced.

According to Mohammad Ramezani, the

deputy head of the company's projects development department, the mentioned power plant which has been constructed with €250 million of investment in Khuzestan Province, is comprised of a 307-MW gas unit and a 144-MW steam unit, IRNA reported.

Most of Iran's power generation capacity is supplied by thermal power plants. Currently,

combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share of the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

The total capacity of the country's thermal power plants stands at over 72,000 MW, according to Ramezani. ▶ Page 4

Iran ready to provide medical education services to Nicaragua

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has announced readiness to provide medical education services to Nicaragua.

He considered the sanctions as a reason for Iran's progress and self-sufficiency in the field of health, suggesting that a joint annual conference be held between the academicians of the two countries, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on January 21 with Nicaraguan Health Minister Martha Reyes Alvarez.

Einollahi thanked Nicaragua for being the first country in the world to take the lead in using the Iran-made coronavirus vaccine.

He welcomed the idea of exchanging professors and students and cooperating in the field of medicine and medical equipment between the two countries, calling for drawing up documents in these fields. ▶ Page 7

Travel back in time to Persepolis, capital of mighty Achaemenid Empire

TEHRAN – Persepolis was one of four important cities that made up the center of the mighty Achaemenid Empire that once stretched from the Indus River to Ethiopia.

Persepolis is the Greek name for the city of Parsa. It is situated on the Marvdasht plain, on the high Iranian plateau, with its back sheltered from the north winds by the great Kuh-e Rahmat ("Mountain of Mercy").

Persepolis is rarely mentioned by any name in foreign records, which instead places more emphasis on other Achaemenid capitals like Babylon, Ecbatana (modern Hamadan), and Shush, which is somewhat surprising for a city of its size and grandeur. The existence of the city may have been kept a secret from the outside world as a result, according to some archaeologists.

With canals providing irrigation, the plain is lush and fertile and is covered in fields. The best time to visit is in the spring because it is beautiful and not too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.

In comparison to the Persian Empire, which stretched from Libya and the Black Sea to India and Central Asia, Greece is incredibly small. ▶ 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 analysis on whether Iran can close Hormuz Strait

"International waterways include lakes, rivers, and international straits that are between two or more countries and international straits are one of the most important examples of international waterways," a senior expert in international law writes in Farhikhtegan as he points to the legal debates about the possibility of closing the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. ▶ Page 2

Sanctions do not impinge on Iran's will: MP

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmaker Alireza Nazari has reacted to recent sanctions imposed by the European Union on a number of Iranian individuals and entities, saying sanctions do not impact Iran's will.

"The Westerners have shown double behavior during the past few decades, they raise the issues of human rights but they acted contrary to their statements," he told parliamentary news agency ICANA.

Nazari added, "On the one hand, the Europeans talk about negotiations, JCPOA and Iran's adherence to the commitments of the nuclear agreement, but on the other hand, they follow issues in our region that are in line with tension, hostility, war and enmity."

He stated, "Europeans should know that the conditions of the Islamic Republic today are different from 43 years ago and the initial years of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. We have our hands open for counter-measures and if they are going to ▶ Page 3

Moscow Museum of Oriental Art to showcase works by Hassan Ruholamin

TEHRAN – The Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow plans to hang paintings by Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin in an exhibition opening on February 4.

Fourteen works produced over the past three years will be showcased at the exhibit entitled "Painting of the Heart".

Among the works selected for the exhibition, there are not only compositions imbued with subtle lyricism, with their detail and color dating back to the aesthetics of traditional Iranian miniatures and the classics of Iranian art of the 20th century, but also large battle scenes, exhibition curator Ilya Zaitsev said in a statement published by the Russian museum.

Ruholamin skillfully combines in his work the achievements of classical European painting with Islamic aesthetics, perception of the world and its history. In the center of the artist's creative search is the history of Islam, the place of man in the world. ▶ Page 8



National snow festival held in southwest

The fifth national snow festival was held January 26-27 at Dena mountain slopes in the southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad.

The event aimed to promote a spirit of social enthusiasm and introduce the province's capacities for winter tourism.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Legal analysis on whether Iran can close Hormuz Strait

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

from page 1 ► Mohsen Akbari says according to the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC), straits that are important for international maritime traffic are subject to legal regulations.

Based on paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the Geneva Convention, the seas and waterways that connect open waters to each other or to the territorial sea of a country are classified as international waterways.

According to this definition, the Strait of Hormuz is among international straits.

Akbari then refers to the disagreement between international law experts about whether or not to close this waterway and writes:

If ships pass through a waterway without causing any trouble and do not harm the security of the coastal state, the government of that country cannot impose regulations for the passage of ships.

Military experts believe that the option of blocking the Strait of Hormuz, although it can be one of the possible tactics of Iran to counter a possible attack by other countries, it is not the first option because national security experts at the Heritage Foundation believe that Iran has a lot of options. They say Iran can disrupt the passage of oil tankers and cause a shock in the oil market.

Therefore, as long as there is no threat to Iran's security from foreign enemies, Tehran is not able to block the Strait of Hormuz.

Etelat: Europe's goals and interests in the Persian Gulf

Two years ago, the European Union for the first time unveiled a comprehensive strategy in which the future relations of the Union with the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council had been designated in various fields, from security areas to trade and climate issues, Etelat said in a commentary.

The new strategy was named "Strategic Partnership with the [Persian] Gulf", according to which the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region.

This increase in presence started from the cementing of ties with Qatar in 2022 and it is going to be extended to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait in 2023.

By developing relations with the Persian Gulf countries, Europe aims to achieve its political and military goals.

European countries are trying to reduce the tensions between the members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and to direct the positions of the council towards various issues, including relationship with Iran and approach toward the JCPOA, Palestine and the relationship with Israel, national reconciliation and political stability in Iraq and other important issues.

The newspaper also writes about Europe's efforts to prevent Russian and Chinese influence in the Persian Gulf region, writing: In recent years, especially after America's decision to reduce its presence in the Persian Gulf, we have seen an increase in the role of Eastern powers, especially China and Russia, in the Persian Gulf, and this has caused concern among European countries due to changes in the balance of power in the global arena.

Although Arab countries of southern shores of the Persian Gulf, with their pragmatic and multilateralist policies, will not be influenced by Europe in development of their relations with China and Russia, and there will not be a serious change in their long-term strategy, Brussels is determined to be present actively in the region. By signing oil and gas contracts and providing part of the industrial and arms needs of these Arab countries, Brussels tries to prevent the influence of China and Russia as much as possible.

Arman-e-Melli: Grossi's trip is a source of hope for JCPOA

The Council of Ministers of the European Union refused to include the Revolutionary Guards in its list of terrorist groups, and this is a hopeful point that shows that there is room for interaction with the Europeans, but we should not know with 100% certainty that nothing will happen, Arman-e-Melli writes.

One of the discussions raised was the 27 European prisoners in Iran, and there is a possibility that a European foreign minister to visit Iran to assess the situation.

But whether the negotiations will be held or not and how the visit of Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will be in Tehran, it must be said: Mr. Grossi mentioned a few things that were irrelevant and suspicious. He announced that Iran's enrichment level has reached such a level that it can make 3 nuclear weapons. This is the first time that he and the Agency have raised such an issue.

The question is why the IAEA chief did not say such things two or three months ago. This statement shows that while they want to cooperate with Iran, they can provoke the international community through such statements if they cannot get the desired result of his visit.

If Grossi does not receive answers to his questions during his trip to Tehran, he will give a report to the IAEA which may lead to the adoption a resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors and then send the issue to the UN Security Council.

Accordingly, we should pay special attention to this important issue, i.e., the connection between Grossi's interview 3 days ago and his baseless statements and the visit to Tehran.

Iran should not provoke Mr. Grossi. Moreover, the NATO secretary general has raised again the threat of Iran and Iranian drones in recent days.

Therefore, if Grossi comes to Tehran and reach a conclusion, there will be an opening which can raise hopes to revive the nuclear negotiations.

Javan: Systematic infanticide in Canada

In an article entitled "Systematic infanticide in Canada", Javan refers to the discovery of mass graves of indigenous children in the North American country and writes: The tragedy is reminder of a dark and shameful chapter in the Canadian history.

This amount of systematic human rights scandal for a country, if not unprecedented in history, is at least rare.

Despite the extent of this disaster, which was referred to as genocide in the literature of international law and is one of the highest crimes recognized in international law, there has been no response from human rights organizations in this regard.

The double standard policies on the "right to life", which is considered one of the most obvious human rights, has also undermined humanity in the West.

Korasan: Western freedom of expression, a term with two meanings

The Khorasan newspaper refers to the insults to the Muslims in some European countries, including Sweden and the Netherlands, and writes: Al-Azhar (University) in Egypt called on the citizens of the Arab world and Muslims to boycott all Dutch products and Swedish goods and take a strong position in support of the Holy Quran.

The strong statement of Al-Azhar, which is one of the important religious and cultural centers of the Islamic world, regarding the offensive action of the extreme rightists in Sweden and the Netherlands in burning and tearing the Holy Quran, shows that the Islamic world must react decisively against the continuation of anti-Islamic actions more than in the past.

Referring to some reactions to these insults, it writes: These protests are not enough and more effective and extensive measures should be taken to prevent the repetition of these anti-Islamic actions, which are deliberate and in line with anti-Islam actions.

Highlighting the publication of cartoons insulting the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in the French magazine Charlie Hebdo, Khorasan wrote the move faced widespread reactions in the Muslim world, but senior Western officials such as President Emmanuel Macron of France and the foreign ministers of Sweden and the Netherlands justified it under the pretext of freedom of speech in the West.

This action of the Western authorities comes as Western countries confront any questioning of certain things such as the Holocaust and prosecute the thinkers and researchers who question it.

At the same time, Muslims' objection to insult against the Prophet and the Quran is suppressed under the pretext of the freedom of expression.

Kayhan: America weakens its allies to remain master of the world

The U.S. policy in the world shows that it is taking steps towards creating tension, but they don't want to be directly involved, Kayhan comments.

The aim of the conflict is to weaken the regional and global competitors of the United States. America does not give up its position in the unipolar world easily and does not want to be an ordinary country in the multipolar world.

America is pushing its allies to confront its rivals. In East Asia, this is clearly visible among South Korea, Japan, and Australia to place them against China.

Although India now has strategic relations with the United States, it is considered an emerging power that will play the role of a competitor for America's regional influence in the future. Weakening India and China can help rebuild the lost role of America in the world.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran FM says Azerbaijan embassy attack fueled on personal grounds

Abdollahian stresses the attack was not an act of terrorism



from page 1 ► The top Iranian diplomat offered condolences to Bayramov following the incident, which led to the murder of the head of the embassy's security service and injury of two diplomatic guards.

He said that the security agencies of the two countries might jointly investigate the incident to shed light on its varied aspects.

For his part, Bayramov commended the Iranian president and foreign minister for expressing their condolences over the incident and praised Amir Abdollahian's proposal that the security agencies of Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic as well as their judicial officials cooperate to investigate the matter.

Amir Abdollahian visits the injured in hospital

Late on Friday, Amir Abdollahian paid a visit to the injured in a Tehran hospital.

After his visit, he and the Azeri ambassador participated in a news conference where he stated that Iran's security and intelligence agencies do not believe the incident was a "terrorist and organized operation," rather it was carried out of personal motive.

"The president gave a clear order to investigate the situa-

tion legally and judicially and to perform legal and judicial follow-ups on every single person who may have been culpable in this case," Abdollahian added.

He expressed delight that the perpetrator had been detained by police shortly after committing the crime, and that questioning him had lasted until Friday at midday.

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian suggests Iran and Azerbaijan can jointly investigate the incident.

Based on the reports issued by various Iranian entities including security organizations, Amir Abdollahian said, "Today I spoke with my counterpart Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov in details and we agreed that Mr. ambassador" continue his mission in Tehran.

Abdollahian also said he held talks with the interior intelligence ministers and the police chief about the incident to pursue the issue.

A comprehensive probe of the assault on the Azerbaijani embassy was also mandated by



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

According to a tweet by president's senior adviser Mohamad Jamshidi on Friday, President Raisi "directed a complete inquiry" into the matter, "expressed condolences to the government, people, and family of the deceased envoy, and prayed for the healing of the injured."

'Attack on embassy was bitter but failed to sever ties'

Ruhollah Hazratpour, a member of the Iran-Azerbaijan parliamentary friendship group, said on Friday that the deadly attack on the embassy was motivated by personal goals and won't have a negative impact on the two countries' relations.

He emphasized that "the killing of an Azerbaijani citizen in that bitter event was quite depressing for the Iranian nation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will seriously deal with the person who committed this criminal act."

ICRO condemns the attack, warns of nefarious intentions

The Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) of Iran issued a statement on Saturday condemning the attack on the embassy. It also cautioned that the event can be used as a pretext by adversar-

ies to sour bilateral relations.

The ICRO expressed regret and grief over the murder of a staff member at the embassy of the "neighboring Muslim country" and expressed sympathies to the government of Azerbaijan over the incident.

Details of incident

After the attack, the gunman who stormed the Azerbaijani embassy and began firing with a handgun was detained, according to Brigadier General Hossein Rahimi, the head of Tehran's police department.

The assailant, who is an Iranian national married to an Azerbaijani woman, "said that his motive was personal and family issues," General Rahimi added.

The gunman said that his main goal was to "save his wife" in an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

He reportedly assumed that her wife was at the embassy and added, "She must be allowed to leave the embassy of her own free will, and if she doesn't want to live with me, I'll assist her get her passport, and she'll be free to go."

When asked if it was his main reason, he replied, "Yes, I did it to save her."

Iranian warships sailing in Latin America's western waters



This file picture shows a view of Dena warship belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy

TEHRAN - Iran's 86th flotilla of warships is now sailing along the western shores of Latin America, the Navy second-in-command said on Saturday.

Rear Admiral Hamzeh Ali Kaviani said the flotilla is going to berth at Brazil's southeastern port city of Rio de Janeiro within the next few days, Press TV reported.

Addressing a ceremony in the northern city of Chalous, Kaviani stressed that Iran's military might is increasing day by day despite all the pressures against the Islamic

Republic over the past 43 years.

He added that most of the military hardware required by the country's Armed Forces is now manufactured at home.

The admiral stated that the Navy's 86th flotilla, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, has raised the Iranian flag in the western waters of Latin America.

Navy's flotillas also have a strong presence in the northern tip of the Indian Ocean, he said.

Dena is a Mowj-class warship that joined

the Iranian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is reportedly equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons.

Makran is a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons. The warship can carry five helicopters and is employed for providing logistical support for the combat warships.

The 86th flotilla is expected to break the record for the distance an Iranian flotilla has sailed in international waters. It set sail from the south of Iran in early autumn with the purpose of circumnavigating the world. Its trip to Brazil appears to be part of a mission to the Panama Canal.

Last year, the 75th flotilla, including Sahand and Makran warships, set a new record of navigation for 250,000 kilometers after a trip to Saint Petersburg in Russia.

On January 11, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said plans are underway to dispatch naval forces to the Panama Canal as Iranian servicemen are approaching the coasts of the Americas.

This comes as the Iranian Navy has set up three ocean commands supervising naval missions to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

Savage attack on Jenin shows Israel's apartheid character: envoy

TEHRAN- Abbas Bagherpour, the Iranian ambassador to Austria, has denounced the Zionist regime's onslaught on the Jenin refugee camp on Thursday, which left dozens of innocent Palestinians dead or injured.

On Friday, Bagherpour said on his Twitter account that the at-



tack on Jenin's residents had once again demonstrated the apartheid nature of the criminal regime of Israel.

He asserted that the passivity of the so-called human rights claimants in the face of the Zionist regime's ongoing crimes is meaningless.

The army of the Zionist regime carried out a massive attack on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, killing 10 Palestinians, including an elderly woman, and injuring at least 20 others.

Ayatollah Khamenei visits industrial exhibition

From Page 1 ► watershed management, electricity and power plant industries, dam construction and water management projects, as well as information and communications technology.

Ayatollah Khamenei has long reiterated the need to pay attention of domestic capabilities of the country. In late August, 2022 speech, the Leader lauded the Raisi administration of paying heed to domestic capabilities. “Another great achievement this Administration has made is that it has brought our society out of a state of expectation. It has turned people’s gaze away from foreigners. It has come out of the state of continuously waiting to see what others have to say about us, or what they will decide for us, or what they’re going to do,” he said, adding, “Importance has been given to domestic capacities, reliance has been placed on these, and work is



being done. Some people say we should definitely have relations with a certain country in order to solve our problems, but this is very harmful to our country. Relying on others and waiting for them to solve the country’s issues is the wrong approach. Thankfully, such a thing has been minimized to a great

extent in your Administration.”

In the same speech, the Leader underlined the need for prioritizing economics. “In my opinion, economics is currently our first priority. Not that we shouldn’t attend to other issues, we must attend to all of them.

But our main focus should be on economic issues, and I’ll explain this further on. So once we have determined our priorities, priorities should also be set from among the sub-sectors of each major sector. For example, what’s the priority in economics? What’s the priority in cultural issues? We should manage the priorities in each of these fields. But as I said, the first and most important priority today is economics in my opinion. [However], this is for now. For how long? We don’t know. For some time,” he said.

The Leader added, “Economics should be attended to very seriously but in accordance with culture. Everything you do in the field of economics must be accompanied by a cultural concept, and this is important. Now suppose there may also be diplomatic, cultural, and other issues for you to attend to as well.”

Sanctions do not impinge on Iran’s will: MP

From Page 1 ► use the tools of sanctions and misuse of international organizations against Iran and the capacity of their media empire against the Islamic Republic, Iran, considering the powers it has in the field of action, will foil all their plans in the West Asia region just as it has done so far.”

He noted, “America is not the only superior power in the world, and the Europeans should also know that with the combination of military, economic and political powers in today’s world, they cannot be the only power. The Islamic Republic of Iran has enjoyed superior power by being a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the long-term cooperation agreement between Iran and China, and Iran and Russia, and developments in the region.”

He concluded, “In the current situation, the West is moving towards isolation, and with the recent sanctions measures, which are mostly propaganda and space-building, it cannot influence the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the future, the Islamic Republic will have the upper hand in the region.”

Tensions have recently escalated between Iran and the West over sanctions imposed by the latter,



particularly with the regard the possibility of the European Union blacklisting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), which seems to be under consideration in the EU corridors of power.

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian has made it clear that Iran is mulling a range of options in response to the IRGC designation, including the strategically important possibility of withdrawing from the NPT.

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

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

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

“We have also prepared a plan. And to reach this plan, we invited all people with opinions and ideas to the parliament. The outcome of these meetings was a 3-point plan, which will probably be announced in today’s public meeting of the parliament,” Amouei told the parliament news agency ICANA.

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

Legislator says Iran, Turkey can strengthen unity among Muslim countries

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmaker Adel Najafzadeh has reiterated the important role Iran and Turkey can play in boost unity among the Islamic countries.

Najafzadeh, who is the head of Iran-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Association, met in Ankara with Orhan Atalay, the head of Turkish delegation at the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC).

“Geographical, religious and cultural commonality is an effective factor in the synergy of bilateral cooperation and this capacity should be used the most for the benefit of the two nations,” the Iranian lawmaker said in the meeting, according to ICANA.

He considered the enemies of

Islam to be the cause of conspiracy and division among Muslims.

“Today, the unity and solidarity of Muslims leads to the lasting peace of Islamic countries and the failure of the enemies of Islam. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey can play an important role in strengthening the unity among Islamic countries,” Najafzadeh said.

He added, “The ground is ready for the deepening of business relations, and the Islamic Consultative Assembly is ready to cooperate with the Turkish Parliament in order to provide legal bases or remove possible obstacles.”

Atalay also pointed to the commonalities of the peoples of Iran and Turkey. “The cultural, social and religious commonalities



of the people of the two countries have brought them closer together beyond the geographical borders of the two nations,” he said.

He added, “Today, anti-Islamism shows the expansion of Islam in the world, and Muslims will win against the tricks of the devils by uniting, solidarity and strengthening

relations with each other.”

At the end of the meeting, Orhan Atalay, by evaluating the favorable and suitable business situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, emphasized the necessity of developing economic cooperation between the two countries.



Iraqi PM expresses hope Iran, Saudi Arabia would resume Baghdad talks

TEHRAN – Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad al-Sudani has voiced hope that Iran and Saudi Arabia would soon resume talks in Baghdad over patching up their differences.

In an interview with the Arabic service of France 24, al-Sudani Iraq is determined to continue mediation between Tehran and Riyadh.

“We felt the serious desire of Iran and Saudi Arabia for Iraq to continue its role of bringing the views of these two countries closer together. We are determined to play this role and we believe that this is the natural role of Iraq – a pioneering role in bringing together opposing points of view,” he said, according to Fars News.

The Iraqi prime minister added, “Our calls continue. We hope to have a meeting soon and resume these discussions in Baghdad with the mediation of Iraq.”

He made the remarks during a visit to France. In an opinion piece for Le Monde before his trip to France, al-Sudani outlined the agenda of his government in various fields. In foreign policy, he reiterated Iraq’s desire to continue mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

“Our government intends to be a major driving force in regional diplomacy and political tracks. This was clearly demonstrated in the Baghdad Conference 2, which was held

with the support of President Macron in the Jordanian capital, Amman, recently; since we were keen on Iraq’s refusal to use its lands as a springboard to threaten neighboring countries, we demonstrated our rejection at the same time of any encroachments on our lands,” the Iraqi prime minister wrote, according to the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

He added, “Iraq, through its distinguished relations with its regional surroundings, has become a meeting point for the disparate parties to meet, and it seeks to bridge the distances between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. This is based on our belief that the stability of the region is achieved by overcoming tensions.”

Al-Sudani continued, “We will continue our endeavors to bring closer together the points of view of Tehran and Riyadh, as we believe

that dialogue and meetings are the only way to reach common ground, and until those understandings reach an advanced stage in the upcoming meetings and gatherings.”

Al-Sudani announced in mid-January the continuation of his country’s efforts to build bridges between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with the Arabic service of DW, al-Sudani revealed that Baghdad continues its efforts to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

“Balanced relations between Iraq and neighboring countries according to the principle of mutual respect, common interests and non-interference in internal affairs is the best approach for us as a government,” he said.

The prime minister added, “Bringing points of view closer between Iran and the countries of the region, including Saudi Arabia, is an approach that the government has followed and continues to follow, and it will contribute to easing tensions in the region, which will reflect on the security of Iraq and the region.”

Al-Sudani said, “We find a response from Iran and Saudi Arabia, and we are continuing with these attempts until we resume the meetings in Baghdad soon.”

SPORTS

Ghasempour dissatisfied with Hector Cuper’s speculation

From Page 1 ► Iranian football must set its sight on the World Cup 2026 and in this process, there is a significant amount to be gained or lost in the next four years due to the quality of the upcoming head coach.

The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) has been silent about selecting the new head coach of the national team. However, some media reported that Argentine coach Hector Cuper has been nominated to take charge of the Iran national football team. According to Kooora.com, the FFIRI has negotiated with the 67-year-old coach.

Before, Iranian coaches such as Farhad Majidi and Amir Ghalenoei were named among the candidates to take the leadership of the Persian Leopards.

Ebrahim Ghasempour, former player and coach of Iran national team and a member of the FFIRI technical committee, reacted harshly to the news of the negotiation with Cuper.

“The Iran football federation faces financial crisis,” said Ghasempour in his interview with Tehran Times.

“I think that the financial crisis has led the FFIRI official to make a weird decision about the national team. They select coaches who have failed in other teams,” he added.

Cuper was sacked by DR Congo after a poor start to the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying in June 2022. The coach has had spells in charge of Valencia, Inter Milan, and Egypt.

“Before the 2022 World Cup, the federation did the same about hiring Queiroz. He was a complete failure in Egypt and Colombia and was sacked from both teams, but our football federation suddenly fired the former head coach and give him the chance to lead Iran in another World Cup,” he added.

“Now they are repeating their mistakes by thinking about coaches who are not expensive and are without a team right now, no matter how they performed in their recent teams,” he said.

Under the leadership of Queiroz, Team Melli suffered two defeats against England and the U.S. and earned a win over Wales, and failed to book a place in the knockout stage.

Ghasempour believes that appointing domestic coaches is the best decision in the current condition of Iranian football.

“When you do not have enough money to hire big and well-known coaches, you should trust in hiring the skilled domestic coaches instead of unsuccessful foreign ones,” he concluded.

Iranian climbers win medals at UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran’s Mohsen Beheshti Rad and Mohammad Reza Safdarian claimed a gold and a silver medal at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup 2023.

The competition was held in Saas-Fee, Switzerland.

Beheshti Rad finished in the first place in the men’s speed final, while his compatriot Safdarian came second.

Iranian woman climber Shabnam Asadi finished in sixth place in the competition.

Iran defeat Tajikistan at CAFA Women’s Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s futsal team defeated Tajikistan 16-0 in the 2023 CAFA Women’s Futsal Championship on Saturday.

Sara Shirbeigi (six goals), Fereshteh Karimi (three goals), Maral Torkman (two goals), Mahsa Kamali, Nastaran Moghimi, Elham Anafcheh, Nazanin Estekifar and Ziba Afragh were on target for Iran.

Iran had started the four-team campaign on Friday with a 5-0 win over Kyrgyzstan.

Iran are scheduled to face Uzbekistan on Monday.

The round-robin tournament is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from Jan. 25 to 31.

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

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

Taekwondo captain Mardani likely to miss Olympics

TEHRAN – Iran taekwondo captain Sajad Mardani underwent a successful surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee.

Mardani will miss World Taekwondo Grand Slam in Wuxi, China and 2023 World Taekwondo Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The 34-year-old athlete will be sidelined for six months and will likely miss the 2024 Olympic Games.

Mardani claimed a bronze medal in the 2022 World Championships held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The +87kg taekwondo athlete also won a gold medal in the 2021 Asian Championships in Beirut, Lebanon.

Tractor forward Ricardo Alves extends deal

TEHRN – Tractor midfielder Ricardo Alves Coelho da Silva has signed a three-year contract extension that will keep him at the Iranian club until 2026.

The Portuguese player had been linked with a move to Esteghlal but extended his contract.

Alves joined Tractor in July 2022 from Kazakhstan’s Kairat. Born in Lourosa, Alves played youth football with mainly FC Porto, which he represented from ages 16 to 19 in his second stint.

He made his senior debut with C.F. Os Belenenses in August 2012, playing three minutes in a 1-0 home win against S.C. Freamunde in the first round of the Portuguese League Cup.

Korea Republic’s Bell aiming for deep run

TEHRAN – Head coach Colin Bell will leave no stone unturned in his bid to ensure Korea Republic enjoy an extended run in the FIFA Women’s World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023.

The East Asian side will be appearing in their third consecutive FIFA Women’s World Cup and fourth overall with their Round of 16 appearance in the 2015 edition their best return to date and Bell is determined to change that.

“We are aiming to go as far as we possibly can in the tournament,” Bell said to reporters on Thursday.

“It’s really important for our players to realize that, when we follow our principles of play, we’re quite capable of beating, as far as I am concerned, every nation. And I don’t want Korea to be making themselves smaller than they are. We have a good team, when we are on form and when everybody is healthy. I am confident if we follow our principles, we can have a really good tournament.”

Bell took charge of Korea Republic following their elimination from the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019, where they lost all three group stage matches.

Since then, the Englishman has built a squad that came within a whisker of winning the AFC Women’s Asian Cup India 2022™, with Korea Republic suffering a heartbreaking 3-2 defeat to China PR in the final.

Bell acknowledged that Korea Republic face a massive challenge in the FIFA Women’s World Cup, where they have Colombia, Morocco and Germany for company in Group H.

“The main objective is to be proactive all the time. It’s about finding ways to win matches and trying to be on top of things,” Bell said.

“We want to be fast and aggressive, well-organized, and clinical. It’s important we’re working on our own DNA and try to be as flexible as possible so that we’re not easy to calculate for the opponents. We want to make life difficult for all three of them.”

The squad will report for centralised training on Monday ahead of their participation in the February 16-22 Arnold Clark Cup, with European champions and hosts England, Italy and Belgium also in the fray.

“It’s important for our players to get used to the European style and experience it on the pitch themselves,” Bell said.

“It’s a very physical type of football from all three teams. It will be a good test for us to see how quickly we can adapt. And we will also try to bring our own game to all three matches.”

5,000 idle mines exist across Iran



TEHRAN – Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Mohtashami-Pour said there are 12,000 mines across the country of which 5,000 are currently not active, IRNA reported.

According to the official, the government has allocated 230 trillion rials (about \$603.7 million) for the development of state-owned mines across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Mohtashami-Pour noted that new mineral zones have also been identified in various provinces which are expected to add to the country's mineral reserves.

He said several knowledge-based companies are currently active in the mining sector working on various projects including exploratory drones and survey cameras.

The deputy minister said up to 80 percent of the equipment and machinery used in the processing of minerals are currently manufactured inside the country.

The Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines was launched in late March 2019.

The most important goal of this program is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment, especially in deprived areas.

In May 2022, Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajihollah Jafari said his organization, which is in charge of the mentioned program, has defined 30 investment packages for continuing the implementation of the program in the current

Iranian calendar year.

Speaking in a meeting for reviewing the progress of the program in the previous year and planning for the current year, Jafari said after the complete monitoring of idle and semi-active mines throughout the country 850 mines have been identified this year and 30 investment packages have been defined to be offered in 19 provinces in this regard.

Jafari noted that the priority for the allocation of the mentioned packages is to implement infrastructure projects that would help revive several mines together.

As such infrastructure projects progress, it is necessary to measure their effectiveness in reviving the country's idle mines, he added.

According to the official, some 453 idle mines were activated under the framework of the program for reviving small and medium-sized mines in the previous Iranian calendar year, which created 3,500 jobs.

Jafari further noted that since the beginning of the program in 2019, over 852 mines have been revived and 13,800 jobs have been created, which has led to a 33-million-ton increase in the country's mineral production.

Back in December 2021, Reza Azimi, who directs IMIDRO's program for reviving and developing small mines, had mentioned concluding 37 memorandums of understanding (MOU) for investment, and scientific-research cooperation with knowledge-based companies, as well as the introduction of 124 projects to Mining Investment Insurance Corporation for receiving facilities, and the support and coaching of knowledge-based companies and startups as other measures taken under the framework of the mentioned program.

Following the implementation of the reviving program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

Over 176,000 tons of alumina powder produced in 9 months

TEHRAN- Iran has produced 176,239 tons of alumina powder during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022).

As reported, the figure shows nearly one percent growth as compared to the output in the nine-month period of the previous year, which was 175,284 tons.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear



and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Ahvaz to host oil industry equipment exhibition in early-Feb.

TEHRAN – The 13th Specialized Exhibition of Khuzestan Manufacturing Oil Industry Equipment is scheduled to be held in southwestern city of Ahvaz (the capital city of Khuzestan) during February 6-9, Shana reported.

The slogan of the current year's exhibition is "A strong Iran; knowledge-based Oil Industry and completion of the value chain".

The exhibition is going to be held at Ahvaz International Permanent Fairgrounds.

TEDPIX drops 11,800 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 11,875 points to 1.6 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 12.538 billion securities worth 77.363 trillion rials (about \$193.4 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 9,121 points, and the second market's index lost 22,600 points

TEDPIX lost 75,515 points to 1.611 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

Iran's nominal power generation capacity exceeds 90,000 MW

from page 1 ► Increasing the country's power generation capacity and preventing blackouts during peak consumption periods have been among the Iranian Energy Ministry's top priorities since the current government administration took office in 2021.

In August 2021, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that his ministry was planning to boost the country's power generation capacity by 35,000 MW over the next four years.

The mentioned figure would be achieved through the construction of thermal power plants with 15,000 MW of capacity, and renewable power plants with a capacity of 10,000 MW by the



public and private sectors, as well as the construction of new power plants with 10,000 megawatts

capacity by large industries.

Over the past decade, constant

temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

3rd train of SP phase 14 refinery goes operational



TEHRAN – The third train of the South Pars phase 14 refinery has gone operational, according to the operator of the phase 14 development project, Mohammad-Mehdi Tavasoli-Pour.

Tavasoli-Pour told Shana on Saturday that the fourth and last train of the refinery is also scheduled to be put into operation by the end of

the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

The first train of the phase 14 refinery went operational in mid-March 2022 and the second train was inaugurated in late November last year.

Phase 14 development is aimed at producing 56.6 million cubic meters per day of rich gas, 75,000 barrels/day of gas condensate and 400 tons/day of sulfur, and 1 million tons/year of liquefied petroleum gas and one million tons/year of ethane to be fed to petrochemical plants.

South Pars Phase 14 Refinery can be considered the final refinery to be completed in the South Pars complex. Before the construction of this refinery, 12 refineries received gas from the offshore platforms of the field and processed it.

However, after the inauguration of four offshore platforms of phase 14, the need to create more refining capacity in this complex was felt more

day by day. Accordingly, the 13th government has put it on the agenda to complete the South Pars Phase 14 refinery by the end of the current Iranian calendar year and make it fully operational.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

More than 19m tons of basic goods unloaded in ports in 10 months

TEHRAN – As reported by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), 19,278,315 tons of basic commodities were unloaded in the ports of the country during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023).

As previously announced by the deputy head of the Islamic

Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran has imported 30.9 million tons of basic goods in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022).

Foroud Asgari, the deputy head of IRICA for customs affairs, said that the imported goods were in 25 commodity groups.

Putting the value of the imported basic commodities at \$19.6 billion in the past year, the official said that the imports show a 60-percent rise in worth and 32-percent growth in weight, as compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399.



Iran ranks 3rd in world in number of apiaries

TEHRAN- Iran ranks third in the world in the number of apiaries, according to the chairman of the Animal Science Research Institute of Iran (ASRI).

Mokhtar Mohajer also said that Iran's rank in honey production is changing and moving between fourth and sixth place in the world.

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

The chairman of the Animal Science Research Institute has said that the amount of honey production in the country should be increased by three to four kilograms per colony.

Mohajer said, "According to the Seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026), the amount of honey production should be increased by at least three to four kilograms per colony according to the diversity of plants and the area of pastures that we



have in the country".

He announced that 112,000 tons of honey, 8,300 kilograms of royal jelly, 406 tons of pollen, 2,536 tons of beeswax, 247 tons of propolis, and 3,917 grams of bee venom are produced annually in the country.

Currently, there are about 11.8 million bee colonies in 109,759 apiaries in the country, he added.

Pointing out that Iran ranks third in the world in the number of apiaries, he said 87,932 people are working in apiaries in the country, and the output of these apiaries is honey and its by-products.

Stating that all these products are not consumed domestically, he said about 10 percent of these products are exported to countries such as Turkey and Arab countries.

Complaining about the low amount of honey production compared to the number of apiaries and colonies, Mohajer said the average production of honey in Iran is much lower than the standard, in a way that about four kilograms of honey is produced in traditional colonies, and an average of 9.6 kilograms of honey is produced in modern colonies.

He stated that the low literacy of the producers is one of the main reasons for the low production in the colonies, adding that the production potential of each bee colony in the country is more than 25 kilograms.

Export from Kermanshah province increases 4%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, rose four 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 previous year, an official with the customs department of the province announced.

Bakhtiar Rahmanipour said that 5.128 million tons of commodities worth \$2.023 billion were exported from the province in the said time span, indicating also seven percent rise in terms of weight.

He named rebar and ironware, tiles and ceramics, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, plastic products, and disposable containers as the major exported items.

The official further announced that 6,813 tons of products worth \$49.054 million have been imported to the province in the first

nine months of the present year, indicating eight percent and 62 percent drop in terms of value and weight, respectively.

He named aluminum, machine parts, and production line equipment as the major imported items.

As previously announced by the official, the value of export from Kermanshah province rose 15 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), from its preceding year.

Rahmanipour said that 525.305 million tons of commodities worth \$2.723 billion were exported from the province in the previous year.

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

He named ceramics and tiles, rebars, iron products, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, and plastic products

as the main exported items.

The official further announced that 25,804 tons of products worth \$66.351 million were imported to the province in the past year, indicating 10 percent growth in terms of value.

He named aluminum alloy, factory production line, batteries, and tires as the major imported items.

Based on the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 19 percent from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022) up to December 31, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRICA data, Iran exported 97,843 million tons of goods valued at \$43.088 billion in the mentioned period, also registering a two-percent increase in weight

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied

propane, methanol, liquefied butane, and film-grade polyethylene were the main exported products in the said time span.

Major export destinations of Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India.

The Islamic Republic has also imported 28.18 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$44.337 billion in the first 286 days of the present year, with a 14.7-percent growth in value and a 10-percent increase in weight, year on year.

The major items of goods imported into the country in the said period include corn, rice, wheat, soybeans, sunflower seed oil, and cell phones, based on the IRICA data.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the mentioned period, followed by China, Turkey, India, and Germany.

TEHRAN- A Palestinian on Friday night shot dead 7 Israeli settlers and injured a number of others. Hours later another armed Palestinian left 2 Israelis in serious condition.

Both attacks took place in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem). The second operation took place in the illegal Silwan settlement of al-Quds.

The attacks occurred just 24 hours after a battalion of 50 Israeli military vehicles backed by special forces invaded the occupied West Bank city of Jenin and committed a massacre, killing 9 Palestinians including an elderly woman.

A tenth Palestinian later died in protests against the raid, which saw the single largest death toll among Palestinians since 2001.

The regime cited a potential threat to its settlers as a pretext for staging the massacre, but Palestinian resistance factions vowed to avenge the deaths while praising the residents of Jenin for putting up a resistance.

The instant retaliatory response has taken the Israeli security apparatus off guard.

The Zionist regime's police officials announced that the first attack, which took place outside a synagogue, left 7 Israelis dead, in addition to 3 others with serious injuries and 2 with mild ones. They said the attacker was "a resident of Jerusalem (al-Quds), and he had no security background."

The Israeli police chief said "this attack is one of the biggest that we have faced in recent years."

Israeli media say the attacker "got out of a car and started shooting with a weapon for 20 minutes, until he was neutralized."

An Israeli military analyst, by the name of Nir Dvori, said "the operation now in Jerusalem (al-Quds) may have something to do with what happened in Jenin, as an act of revenge."

Experts would argue that this isn't rocket science to figure out.

The speed with which the retaliatory operations took place marks the beginning of a new phase of the new popular resistance emerging from the occupied West Bank.

The Thursday massacre in Jenin was met with a suspicious silence by the international community.

Many politicians, including UN officials called for restraint. No Western government (with the exception of Northern Ireland) condemned the heinous Israeli brutality.

Following the retaliation, the Western community was quick to condemn the response in a clear example of double standards between the occupier and the indigenous people of the land.

After the Palestinian response,



Israeli media saw that "the problem with these attacks is that there is no address to go to, as the perpetrator is a single person who has weapons and chooses the time he wants."

The retaliatory operation took place in two squares, with the regime's security forces reportedly making extra efforts to prevent more attacks by setting up roadblocks, strengthening patrols and providing settlements with extra protection.

But that did not stop the second operation with reports indicating a 13-year-old Palestinian injured two Israeli settlers in the Silwan settlement of occupied al-Quds.

Israel's Channel 12 said, "Tonight's attack in Jerusalem (al-Quds) did not come out of nowhere, but rather came, apparently, as revenge for what happened in Jenin."

Israeli media also reported that the prime minister of the occupation regime, Benjamin Netanyahu, will conduct an assessment of the security situation, while the minister of security, Yoav Gallant, cut short his private visit to the United States, and is returning to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Immediately after the operation was announced, the mosques of the besieged Gaza Strip rejoiced, and the people began distributing sweets.

Hamas, in an official statement published on its website, blessed the heroic operation carried out by the 21-year-old martyr Khairy Alqam, from the Shuafat refugee camp in occupied al-Quds.

Hamas said that this operation is "a natural response to the Jenin massacre, the desecration of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, and the escalating Zionist crimes and aggressions against our

people."

In its statement, the movement added, "Our people will continue to strike the enemy's sites, barracks, and settlements, and the resistance will remain the choice of our people until the liberation of its land and sanctities and the taking of all its national rights," and that this qualitative operation took place inside the "Nabi Jacob" settlement, which is established on "our lands" in the town of Beit Hanina, north of occupied al-Aqsa.

The Islamic Jihad Movement also blessed the al-Quds commando operation, saying in a statement that it "fired its blessed bullets against the herds of Zionist settlers near the 'Nabi Jacob' neighborhood in al-Quds, and caused many deaths and injuries."

Islamic Jihad affirmed that this operation, which "healed the hearts of our people, came at the right time and place to avenge the blood of the martyrs in the Jenin camp and the West Bank, and as a natural and legitimate response to the crimes of the occupation and the violation of sanctities."

The movement indicated that the operation "sent a strong message to the Israeli occupation that the resistance is ready and our people's response is not far away, and that its heinous crimes will not go unpunished."

The statement concluded "this blessed operation is a field confirmation of the determination of the Palestinian people and the presence of the resistance and its ability to respond in all arenas, and to let the occupier know that there is no safety for him or his settlers on any part of the pure soil of Palestine."

Also, the al-Quds Brigades blessed the heroic operation, stressing that these operations express "the unity of the situation between the geography of the homeland, and the will of the Palestinian people and their rejection of the Israeli occupation."

The al-Quds Brigades added that the commando operation is "a natural and clear response to the presence of the Israeli occupation on the land of Palestine, and its brutal practices against the Palestinian people in Jenin, Nablus, Gaza, al-Quds and all of Palestine, as a testament to the unity of the resistance arenas."

Likewise, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades praised the operation that it said was carried out in response to the enemy's crimes against the Palestinian people.

For its part, the Islamic Jihad Movement, said "the al-Quds operation, which resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of Israelis, is an honorable operation, and it raises the head of the Palestinian people, and the Jihad movement blesses it."

It stressed, "This operation tells the extremist Israeli government that the Palestinian people do not sleep on their blood."

The leader of the Islamic Jihad movement indicated readiness for all possible scenarios, adding "we will be a support for the resistance fighters in the West Bank and al-Quds."

Also, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said that the al-Quds operation confirms that "the Palestinian people cannot tolerate the blood of their children, so the occupation's response came harshly through this process."

Qassem stressed that "the Palestinian resistance proves that its security mind, even if it is individual, can defeat the Israeli occupation forces."

He pointed out that the operation came "in retaliation for the bloodshed of the people of occupied Palestine, and in response to the occupation's crimes against sanctities and the plundering of Palestinian lands."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine pointed out the international community, which did not pay attention to the occupation's crime and massacre in the Jenin camp, bears responsibility for the continued massacres against the Palestinian people, and it must be aware that the people are determined to wrest their freedom.

The Resistance Committees called on the Palestinian people to engage in more clashes and carry out qualitative and powerful operations against the Israeli occupation and its settlers, until they are expelled from the Palestinian territories.

Speaking at a news conference in Tokyo, Sannino said "this latest development in terms of armed supply is just an evolution of the situation and of the way Russia started moving the war into a different stage." He said Russian President Vladimir Putin "has moved from a concept of [a] special [military] operation to a concept now of a war against NATO and the West."

"Now we are speaking about a war with NATO and the West. Different story," Sannino said.

Russia has already warned the promised delivery of Western tanks to Kiev is evidence of a direct and growing involvement by the United States and Europe in the war. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said last week the war in Ukraine is no longer a hybrid one, as it has almost escalated into "a real one" with the West continuing to "plot" against Moscow. Lavrov said, "The goal is to destroy everything Russian, from language to culture, that has been in Ukraine for centuries and to prohibit people from speaking their mother tongue." (source: Press TV)

Kremlin says Biden has key to end Ukraine conflict but doesn't use it

The Kremlin said on Friday that U.S. President Joe Biden had the key to end the conflict in Ukraine by directing Kyiv, but that Washington had so far not been willing to use it.

"The key to the Kyiv regime is largely in the hands of Washington," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a daily briefing.

"Now we see that the current White House leader ... does not want to use this key. On the contrary, he chooses the path of further pumping weapons into Ukraine," he added.

Russia, Turkey discussing sensitive issues related to gas hub's security: diplomat

Moscow and Ankara have launched expert discussions of sensitive issues related to the security of a planned gas hub, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov said in an interview with TASS.

"Joint efforts resulted in [Russian President] Vladimir Putin's initiative to create a gas hub in Turkey. Experts are currently discussing various aspects related to the implementation of the initiative, including sensitive ones. We are pleased to see the enthusiasm of our Turkish partners, as well as their constructive approach and willingness to engage in close joint work," he pointed out in response to a question concerning explosions on the Nord Stream gas pipelines.

Syromolotov was confident that Moscow and Ankara would succeed "in resolving all the emerging issues, including those concerning the security of the existing and future energy facilities."

The Russian deputy foreign minister said that the energy sector was one of the fields where Russian-Turkish cooperation was the most successful. "Ankara's determination to boost ties in this field stems from the positive experience of bilateral cooperation in building the Blue Stream and the TurkStream gas pipelines, as well as from Russia's reliance as a gas supplier," he noted.

Video released of 5 police officers beating Tyre Nichols in state of Tennessee



From page 1 ► The officers then drag Nichols across the ground and prop him up against a police car while discussing that Nichols grabbed for one of their guns.

Cities across the US, including Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. are preparing for possible states of emergency in the event of violent protests.

Demetrius Haley, Tadarrius Bean, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills, Jr. and Justin Smith were all charged with murder for the Jan. 10 death of Nichols.

The five officers were fired from the MPD following Nichols' killing.

Police Chief Cerelyn Davis condemned the ac-

Brazil refuses to sell tank ammo for Ukraine

Brazilian President Lula da Silva shot down an offer to sell tank ammunition to Germany for use in Ukraine, Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo reported on Friday. A vocal critic of the West's policy toward Ukraine, Lula has striven to remain neutral on its conflict with Russia.

The president allegedly rejected the request at a meeting with Brazilian defense chiefs and Defense Minister Jose Mucio last week. According to the paper's sources, since-dismissed army commander Julio Cesar de Arruda told Lula that Germany wished to purchase just under \$5 million worth of shells for its Leopard 1 tanks.

Lula reportedly considered asking Berlin to guarantee that it would not send the ammunition to Ukraine, but ultimately declined the offer, "arguing that it was not worth provoking the Russians," as Folha de Sao Paulo put it.

Less than a week later, Germany formally announced that it would donate a company-sized force of Leopard 2 main battle tanks to Ukraine, and would allow other countries operating the tanks to transfer them to Kiev. It is unclear whether the ammunition referenced by Folha is compatible with both generations of Leopard tank.

Ex-general beats populist rival in Czech election

Retired NATO general Petr Pavel has been elected as the new president of the Czech Republic, seeing off his populist challenger Andrej Babis.

The 61-year-old took 57.6% of the vote, initial results released by the state statistic office showed.

Babis - who served as prime minister between 2017 and 2021 - conceded defeat in a speech to supporters soon after the results were announced.

The ex-general will replace Milos Zeman, whose second term ends in March.

The second-round runoff between Babis and Pavel was portrayed as a contest between populist oligarchy and liberal democracy.

The elections' results follow an ill-tempered campaign marred by alleged death threats and disinformation.

Earlier this week Pavel was forced to take to Twitter to deny rumors of his own death, circulated by a fake website and emails hosted by Russia's Yandex server.

EU Commission says Ukraine has ‘unconditional support’ in war with Russia



The European Commission says Ukraine has the unconditional support of the European Union in the war with Russia.

Speaking at an event in Germany on Saturday, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Kiev needed to defend European values. "We stand by Ukraine's side without any ifs and buts."

She said Ukraine "is fighting for our shared values, it is fighting for the respect of international law and for the principles of democracy and that is why Ukraine has to win this war."

Von der Leyen made the remarks ahead

of an EU-Ukraine summit in Kiev next week.

Earlier this month, she had a conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during which "the parties discussed expected results of the next Ukraine-EU summit to be held on February 3 in Kiev and agreed to intensify preparatory work," Zelensky's office said.

Ukraine has been at war with Russia since Moscow launched its "special military operation" on February 24, 2022 with the declared aim of "de-Nazifying" Ukraine. Ever since, the EU, the United States and their allies have been providing Kiev with military hardware, despite warnings from Moscow that the move would prolong the war.

On Friday, European External Action Service Secretary-General Stefano Sannino accused Russia of taking the war into a "different stage" in response to a decision by NATO to send advanced armaments to Ukraine. Sannino was referring to a decision made by Germany and the United States this week to send advanced battle tanks to Ukraine.

Sassanid petroglyph on marriage found in Marvdasht

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have recently found a Sassanid-era (224–651) rock drawing in Marvdasht, southern Fars province, ILNA reported on Saturday.

The petroglyph is written on the subject of wishing for a holy marriage for an Iranian lady, said Iranian archaeologist Abolhassan Atabaki.

It is one of the most beautiful Sassanid inscriptions discovered over the past century in Marvdasht, as it bears a wish for a holy marriage for an Iranian lady, he added.

Ancient works and stone inscriptions discovered in Marvdasht over the past few years have always captured the interest of archaeologists, historians, and people interested in ancient languages.

Last week, Atabaki announced that an ancient rock drawing of a Sassanid-era (224–651) horseman was discovered in Marvdasht.

In the northern rocks of the ancient city of Istakhr and four meters above the ground, the scratch engraving depicts a Sassanid rider with a wavy ribbon and a horse with four hooves, the archaeologist said.

Since there are very few petroglyphs left from the late Sassanid period, the discovery of this petroglyph is very significant and has study value despite its simplicity, he added.

In many ways, Iran under Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements in Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule. In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West

were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

Of all the material remains of the era, only coins constitute a continuous chronological sequence throughout the whole period of the dynasty. Such Sassanian coins have the name of the king for whom they were struck inscribed in Pahlavi, which permits scholars to date them quite closely.

The legendary wealth of the Sassanian court is fully confirmed by the existence of more than one hundred examples of bowls or plates of precious metal known at present. One of the finest examples is the silver plate with partial gilding in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The dynasty was destroyed by Arab invaders during a span from 637 to 651.

The ancient region, known as Pars (Fars), or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital in Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC. Alexander the Great defeated the Achaemenian army at Arbela in 331 and burned Persepolis apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

Persis became part of the Seleucid kingdom in 312 after Alexander's death. The Parthian empire (247 BC– 224 CE) of the Arsacids (corresponding roughly to the modern Khorasan in Iran) replaced the Seleucids' rule in Persis during 170–138 BC. The Sasanid Empire (224 CE–651) had its capital at Istakhr. Not until the 18th century, under the Zand dynasty (1750–79) of southern Iran, did Fars again become the heart of an empire.

Budget allocated to restore monuments in Saveh

TEHRAN – A budget of 15 billion rials (\$37,500) has been allocated to restore historical monuments across Saveh, central Markazi province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The restoration of monuments such as the 12th-century Jameh Mosque of Saveh, Kalbali Khan Cistern, and a former bathhouse is top on the agenda, Mostafa Marzban explained on Saturday.

The restoration projects will be carried out in close collaboration with Saveh Municipality as well as other related organizations, the official added.

Ilam governor receives Babylon statue

TEHRAN – A historical statue of the ancient city of Babylon in Iraq has been presented to the governor of the western Iranian province of Ilam, IRNA reported on Saturday.

In a meeting on Thursday, Hussein Falihi, the director of the governmental Babel Antiques Organization, presented the historical statue to the governor of Ilam, Hassan Bahramnia, the report added.

Following the meeting, the Iranian official visited the Babylon province's tourism infrastructure and signed a memorandum of understanding establishing cooperation to develop tourism

Soaked in history and culture, Saveh is situated in the north of Markazi province at a height of 995 meters above sea level. The climate of this city is warm and semi-arid in the east vicinity to desert and cold in the mountainous region of the west.

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural, and religious attractions.

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

between the two provinces.

Ruled by Hammurabi, restored by Nebuchadrezzar, and conquered by Cyrus the Great, Babylon is located in the heart of Mesopotamia, between the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris some 97 kilometers south of Baghdad.

It was the capital of southern Mesopotamia (Babylonia) from the early 2nd millennium to the early 1st millennium BC and the capital of the Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) empire in the 7th and 6th centuries BC when it was at the height of its splendor.



Tourists are seen at the ruins of Persepolis near the city of Shiraz in southern Iran, Jan. 25, 2023. (Photo: Xinhua)

From Page 1 ► Getting there

By car, Persepolis is easily reachable. The routes are secure, and there are rest stops every so often. Several close ports on the Persian Gulf are available if you're arriving by boat.

There is evidence of Persian kings' efforts to modernize their nation dating back to prehistoric times, and a royal road connecting Sardis and southwest Turkey even exists today.

According to the British Museum, King Darius I has also just announced a new 'big dig' in Egypt to build a new Suez Canal, so it will only take four days to get from the Nile to the Red Sea, and we expect a new shipping route to Egypt to be announced soon.

Things to see and do

The amazingness of the

ornamental gardens inspired the creation of the word "paradise" specifically for them. These are formal gardens that use poplar trees for shade and are laid out in a "four square" geometric pattern with tiny stone water channels for the various flower beds. In case there is an admission policy, it is best to ask a local.

Rising above the city is the citadel, if you can get access, it is spectacular, as is the view from the top.

It is approached by large staircases with shallow steps suitable for anyone in long robes or with limited mobility and entered through a gatehouse. There are lots of courtyards inside, with columned halls raised on platforms, and carved reliefs.

If you are lucky enough to be invited to the court, prepare to be

overwhelmed by its splendor. The court is huge – one king had 329 concubines who played musical instruments, 46 men to weave garlands, 277 cooks to make fancy titbits, 29 caterers and 14 perfumers.

Shopping

If you want to bring some lovely trinkets home, make sure to stop by the bazaar. The Persian origin of the word "bazaar" lends it the right connotation of exotic riches, heady scents, and a profusion of oddities.

You can buy anything under the sun in Parsa.

Entertainment

Iranians love to celebrate spring because it marks the beginning of better weather and a lush landscape. People exchange gifts and put on new clothing during

Iran hopes to lure European sightseers for spring season

TEHRAN – Iranian Tour Operators Director Ebrahim Pourfaraj has said tourism insiders are preparing new (incentive) packages to boost the industry.

So far, the number of European travelers booking Iran travels for the upcoming spring season has been below expectations, ILNA quoted Pourfaraj as saying on Saturday.

"After the recent events that caused many inbound tours to cancel their reservations, we currently have no bookings for European tours."

At the moment, most of the agency owners, who work in the field of inbound tours, have no [European] customers, he said.

"Currently, European visitors are very few in Iran... mostly for administrative and business affairs."

It can be said that for the next season, the number of European tourists may be interested. However, no reservations have been made yet for spring, he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pourfaraj said travelers from the neighboring countries constitute Iran's major source of international tourism.



"Few tourists from neighboring countries travel to Iran for pilgrimage. Most of them are from Iraq..."

In the current situation, all the neighboring countries from Turkey to Oman, Azerbaijan, and Dubai are our competitors in the field of tourism, he said.

"Therefore, we are making our best to introduce new packages for potential travelers."

Earlier in December, the Head of the Iranian Hoteliers Association said some 85 percent of foreign tourists had canceled their trips to the Islamic Republic.

"Iran's recent unrest has forced over 85

percent of foreign tourists from European, American, and Asian countries to cancel their visits," Jamshid Hamzehzadeh said.

"Currently, the average occupancy rate of hotels has declined to below 20 percent and most hoteliers have difficulties covering their expenses," Hamzehzadeh mentioned.

As long as these conditions persist, hoteliers will be forced to retrench, similar to what they did during the coronavirus pandemic years, he said.

Last July, ISNA reported that the tourism industry of the country had suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$1.1 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and financial losses.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites.

Tourism, country's economy best alternative to oil, MP says

TEHRAN – The tourism industry in Iran is the most viable alternative to the oil industry in terms of economic growth, a member of the Iranian parliament has said.

In order to save the country's economy from dependence on oil, tourism is the best alternative, CHTN quoted Gholamreza Montazeri as saying on Saturday.

There are a number of aspects of tourism in Iran that need

serious attention for growth and prosperity, he added.

Long shunned by Western travelers, the Islamic Republic has steadily stepped-up efforts to use tourism, over the past couple of years, to help promote its international image battered by endless opposition mostly from the U.S.

Experts believe even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those

Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. They say Iran is still somehow "unknown" to many potential travelers due to such a "media war."

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

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

with four, and India with three, according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, Zanjan, and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC-Asia-Pacific Region, bringing the number of craft cities and towns in Iran from 10 to 14. Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts."

Moreover, the event stages live performances and workshops by participants from the provinces of Qom, Tabriz, Isfahan Kordestan, Khorasan, Ardabil, Yazd, Kermanshah, Hamadan, Lorestan, Mazandaran, and Azarbaijan, the report said.

Stalls at the exhibition showcase kilim carpets, marqueterie, traditional dolls, leatherwork, potteries, copper work, and handwoven textile to name a few, CHTN reported.

Iran has the most cities and towns registered with the World Crafts Council (WCC), followed by China with seven, Chile

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-0140008

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "HYDRIL CS" THREAD, RANGE2 AS PER API 5CT/ ISO11960, PSL: 2 SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: HLO, Q1, 1) *QC/MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 2-7/8 IN., 6.5 PPF	1000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 30,457/30 EURO or 8,250,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex

Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۱۱/۰۹

TEHRAN - The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has donated eight ambulances to Iran with the aim of helping the country improve health services to refugees.

Deputy Health Minister Mohammad-Hossein Nicknam said the ambulances will be delivered to eight universities of medical sciences in the cities of Zabol, Isfahan, Kerman, Zahedan, Mashhad, Iranshahr, Rafsanjan, and Tehran.

Countries in different situations should help for improving each other's health services, especially when those countries face additional issues and problems, he added, IRNA reported.

"We have been hosting millions of Afghan brothers and sisters in our country for many years, and it is a great pleasure that we can be a source of help to our fellow countrymen."

Iran recently donated 200,000 doses of Barkat vaccines for Covid-19 to Nicaragua and a number of vaccines to Iraq, and this is in a situation where Iran is under the most severe sanctions, Nicknam highlighted.

But the country still fulfills its human duty, he said, adding, "our help to Afghan refugees is also in the same direction."

"Today, Western countries, which proclaim humanitarianism, mistreat helpless refugees and put them under a lot of pressure. But millions of Afghan citizens have been living in our country for years. Even in the era of Covid-19 and in other conditions, we did not and do not consider any difference between Iranians and Afghan citizens."

"Of course, helping them is one of our human duties," he concluded.

Iran ready to provide medical education services to Nicaragua

From page 1 ► He added that he will soon visit Cuba and try to visit Nicaragua as well to get to know the health system of this country.

The Nicaraguan official, for her part, referred to Nicaragua's effort to develop a family-oriented health system with comprehensive and free coverage, saying that she was interested in seeing Iran's achievements in the field of health.

Reyes welcomed Iran's offer of providing medical education services and expressed hope that her country would be able to benefit from Iran's expertise in the field of health, especially the internship of Nicaraguan students in Iran.

Bilateral ties

In December 2022, a comprehensive plan to enhance bilateral cooperation was agreed upon by the foreign ministries of Iran and Nicaragua.

The agreement was signed in Tehran by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada Colindres and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Amir Abdollahian said Tehran is prepared to deepen the bilateral relationships in a variety of economic and commercial relations.

The senior Iranian diplomat described the agreement as a "new and strategic" initiative to improve ties between the two nations.

Nicaragua's foreign minister praised



UNFPA provides Iran with ambulances to improve services to refugees

International support

For over four decades, Iran has been hosting one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees, mostly from Afghanistan.

The recent fast-paced turn of events in Afghanistan has the potential to create additional population movements; internally displacing families and potentially driving them to neighboring countries to seek refuge.

Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban-takeover-are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the

most progressive in the world.

On January 23, the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, urged the United Nations to help Iran provide better support for Afghan refugees.

He called for the UN to benefit from all of Iran's capacities to help the people of Afghanistan and increase regional cooperation in solving the economic, social, and educational problems of Afghan people and refugees.

He made the remarks in a meeting at the place of the embassy in Kabul with Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, the special representative for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UNHCR's Officer in Charge, Inna Gladkova, said in November 2022 that despite the sanctions and

economic pressures, Iran continues its comprehensive policy of providing services to refugees, and this is appreciable.

The best solution and the most stable support system for refugees is that have access to schools and education just like Iranian nationals, she stated, IRNA reported.

Iran has taken effective and continuous measures to include all refugees, and the UNHCR also declares its readiness to fulfill its obligations, she noted.

In the provision of educational services, there are different aspects, she said, adding, school construction, equipping schools, providing teachers and human resources, and providing quality educational services are the main and important work done by the Ministry of Education.



experiences in this field with Nicaragua.

Within the framework of the joint committee for scientific and technological cooperation, the transfer of these experiences should be pursued, she stressed.

The Iranian minister, for his part, said that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, notable achievements have been made in the country's higher education sector, including ranking first in the region by publishing 78,000 articles in international journals in 2022.

When innovative ideas reach the stage of commercialization and presentation in the market, researchers can establish a knowledge-based company, he said.

The issue of setting up centers for teaching the Persian language in Nicaraguan universities was also proposed by the Iranian science minister.

Rewarding excessive energy consumers will backfire

By M.A. Saki

President Ebrahim Raisi has ordered a 70 percent discount for those gas subscribers whose consumption has exceeded a level set by the parliament.

The order is in contrast to the current year's national budget law which states the standard for gas consumption should be observed.

The cold season in this year's winter has been cited as the reason for the discount. It has also been said that some of these subscribers are living in small cities and villages.

If the main concern of the government is those subscribers who live in small cities and villages, this time it can give discounts to them but apply the rule toward other subscribers. Even if this group is given a discount this time, they will go on with their extravagant consumption.

However, Moslem Rahmani, an official at the National Iranian Gas Company, has said that based on the order of the president this discount will continue in the current Iranian calendar year, which ends on March 20.

This shows that the sitting government, like the previous ones, is following populist approaches toward energy consumption.

Giving discounts to excessive consumers in big cities - like Tehran, Tabriz and Mashhad - is an injustice to those who have been heating their houses by observing a limit.

The extravagant consumers not only have wasted energy to the detriment of national wealth, but they have also been contributing more to the choking air pollution, which is seriously affecting the health of citizens.

In a government whose main slogan is justice, such a discount is a clear example of injustice.

Such populist policies toward energy consumption have turned Iran into one of the greatest consumers of energy - gas, electricity, and petrol - in proportion to its population.

sumers of energy - gas, electricity, and petrol - in proportion to its population.

It is better that government officials, especially the president, focus on basic commodities whose prices have skyrocketed incredibly rather than rewarding the excessive consumers of energy.

Officials and ordinary people should notice how the Europeans are regulating their gas consumption despite the fact that Russian gas, which until February 2022 accounted for about 40 percent of consumption in Europe, no longer flows to the cold continent due to the issues surrounding the Ukraine war.

By following such a policy, we cannot train citizens sensitive to wasteful consumption of energy, its real value, building energy-efficient houses, and more importantly sensitive to the protection of the environment.

Experts and officials have warned that if gas consumption continues at the current pace, Iran will turn into a gas importer in future years.

If for certain reasons, particularly sanctions and high costs of living, increasing petrol prices is not expedient, it is essential that officials adopt plans to lower consumption of gas, electricity, petrol and water.

The more wrong policies continue, the harder it will be to reform them. Petrol is an eye-opener.

Populist policies toward petrol prices over the last decades have created a chain of problems.

Now the public reacts angrily to even talk of increasing petrol prices. They are more sensitive to petrol prices than bread prices.

Now, petrol consumption has astonishingly exceeded 100 million liters per day and the wasteful use of petrol coupled with substandard cars and motorcycles has made clean air a wish.

In the end, it is the citizen who will suffer greatly.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 53

It is one of the few coastal freshwater lagoons. This wetland is a supplier of agricultural water and its water is supplied by groundwater and rainwater.

This area is very important for water purification and ecological functions, tourism, vegetation and agriculture and that is a very suitable habitat for animals and birds in particular.

The fauna and flora are also suitable for providing an ideal habitat for fish.

Biological diversity

Amirkelayeh wetland has got a rich biodiversity including 15 mammal species, 19 fish species, 151 bird species, 3 amphibian species and 5 reptile species.

Due to the unique nature of this wetland and the absence of a river which enters into it, there is a unique biodiversity in this wetland.

More than 75 plants also thrive at the site. Some species are more important in aspect of biodiversity, such as *Nelumbo nucifera*, *Nymphaea nouchali*, *Felis chaus*, *Lutra lutra*, *Vormela peregusna*.

The wetland is the habitat of 19 species of freshwater fish and due to the physical and chemical properties of water and the fauna and flora, it is a suitable spawning ground for the most prominent bony fish in the Caspian Basin, including *Cyprinus carpio*, *Rutilus kutum*, *Esox Lucius*, *Tinca tinca* etc. living and spawning in it.

Ecological character

This wetland is one of the few freshwater wetlands located near the sea and it is the supplier of agricultural water.

The main ecological feature of this wetland is the availability of safe and suitable conditions for different species of birds as well as providing a suitable habitat for fish and other animals.

This wetland supports species that are listed in the Red List of IUCN such as *Pelecanus crispus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Aquila clanga*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Cygnus columbianus*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Natrix* sp. Amirkelayeh wetland has got rich biodiversity including 15 mammals, 19 fish, 151 birds, 3 amphibians and 5 reptiles.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

World's first 'subway library' to open in Tehran

For the first time in the underground transportation system worldwide, a public library will be opened in Tehran subway, Farnoush Nobakht, director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company, said.

According to the memorandum signed between the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company and the Tehran public libraries foundation, libraries will be launched in seven selected stations, first of which will be inaugurated on August 12, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The library, called "Metro Book", is in line with the cultural programs to promote the culture of reading and increase per capita reading among subway passengers during intra-city trips, the library with a capacity of more than 5,000 books provides services continuously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., she explained.

افتتاح کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران برای اولین بار در جهان

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: برای اولین بار در سامانه حمل و نقل متروهای جهان، کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران افتتاح می شود.

به گزارش ایسنا، فرنوش نوبخت اظهار داشت: قرار است طبق تفاهم نامه منعقد شده بین شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه و نهاد کتابخانه های عمومی استان تهران در هفت ایستگاه منتخب «مترو کتاب» راه اندازی شود.

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: این کتابخانه در راستای برنامه های فرهنگی معاونت امور فرهنگی اجتماعی شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران مبنی بر ترویج فرهنگ کتابخوانی و افزایش سرانه مطالعه در میان مسافران مترو هنگام سفرهای درون شهری این کتابخانه با ظرفیت بیش از ۵۰۰۰ عنوان کتاب به صورت فیزیکی از ساعت ۸ صبح تا ۲۰ به طور مستمر به آرایه خدمات می دهد.



Zahedan witnesses snowfall after 8 years

Children are making a snowman as the southeastern city of Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan province, experienced snowfall after eight years on Friday, January 27.

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JANUARY 29, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When a husband and wife look at each other with love, Allah looks at both of them with mercy.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17 Evening: 17:47 Dawn: 5:40 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:06 (tomorrow)

Adab in Iran

Part 6

Generosity is essential; it must be given before, not after, the receipt of an appeal for help and without thought of compensatory gain, but rather with gratitude to the recipient.

Nevertheless, a gift (bakhshesh = Ar. Ataa') should only be made to a person worthy of it, and charity should only go to the deserving.

In spite of one's power, one should be ready to pardon offenses; one should not judge others while angry. On the death of a loved one, it is not right to grieve endlessly; but it is right to cherish the memory of deceased persons and men of past generations.

Lamenting over past losses and rejoicing over gains that have yet to be won are both unwise, and so too is rejoicing over present gains; and joy which may end in sorrow should be eschewed.

Throughout life, effort is necessary, but disproportionate effort is unseemly because effort makes no difference to God's mercy and cannot change fate's decrees.

This being so, we must gladly accept God's mercy, live in contentment and cheerfulness (khorsandi, khoshnudi =Ar. reza;), seek peace of mind and freedom from worldly needs (biniazi), and eschew the sin of greed.

In the world there are ten demons (divs) who are enemies of life and reason, namely greed (aaz), need (niaz), envy (rashk), disgrace (nang), revenge (kin), anger (khashm), slander (sokhon-chini), insincerity (do-ruyi), irreligion (napak-dini), and ingratitude (na-sepasi).

Among these ten demons enumerated by Bozorgmehr in an address to Khosrow I are five (greed, need, envy, revenge, and anger) that have been named earlier in the account of Mazdak's teachings and that are mentioned again by Bozorgmehr in another context. Greed and need incur particularly stern censure. Generally speaking, the Shahnameh reckons greed the worst sin.

Passages in the Shahnameh give some information about the holding of adab sessions in the Sassanid period or at least in the reign of Khosrow I.

In these gatherings attended by the king and held weekly, morals, manners, literary matters, principles of statecraft, and the like were discussed.

The seven sessions recounted in the Shahnameh could be called the haft khan of adab, being analogous to the seven exploits (haft khan) of Rostam.

The participants, aside from the king, were Bozorgmehr the vizier, Yazdegerd the secretary (dabir), Ardashir the chief priest (mubad-e mubadan), and two other dignitaries named Sava and Bahman.

The name given to these discussions in the Shahnameh is bazm (banquet), and as it indicates, they were accompanied by food and wine.

In the Islamic period, the Barmakids and the caliph Ma'mun are known to have followed the example of Khosrow I and his minister by instituting similar sessions which were named majles.

This Arabic word likewise meant banquet with wine and discussion, and can be considered a translation of the Pahlavi bazm. The same is true of many other Arabic technical terms of adab, particularly in the fields of manners and morals.

A careful examination of the Shahnameh's

Persian terminology of adab, which reproduces the Pahlavi terminology, proves both that Sassanid adab had been well developed and that Islamic adab was directly connected to it.

Contrary to the opinion of Richter (Studien), adab did not arise all of a sudden in the Sassanid period, but to a large extent incorporated the world views of earlier periods.

This fact is supported most strongly by the Avesta. The amshaspands (attributes of Ahura Mazda) epitomize the whole ethical purport of adab, and the precept (Yasht 5.18 and elsewhere) "good thoughts (Av. humata, Pahl. humat), good words (Av. huxta, Pahl. huxt), good deeds (Av. hwashta, Pahl. huwasht)" is really the Avesta's definition of adab.

Scattered mentions of Iranian ethics by Greek and Roman historians also confirm the general outline provided by the Shahnameh.

The fusion of adab and Islam: The principal transmitters of Sassanid adab to Islamic culture were the Shu'ubites, two of whom made outstanding contributions: Ebn al-Moqaffa' and Ferdowsi.

They not only had in common the Shu'ubite characteristics of strong attachment to Iranian culture and somewhat superficial Islamic faith (though Ferdowsi was a convinced monotheist and like most Iranians a sincere admirer of Imam Ali [AS]), but they also left deep imprints on the adab of subsequent periods.

It is a fair assessment to say that the elements of the Iranian heritage which Ebn al-Moqaffa' transmitted and blended into the general Islamic culture and which Ferdowsi transfused into the particular Islamic culture of Iran suffice to demonstrate the continuity of the Iranian cultural tradition.

The fusion of Iranian adab with Islamic culture did not at first proceed smoothly, but encountered strong resistance. One reason was that certain branches of adab, such as music, chess, backgammon, and even poetry, had non-Islamic roots.

Another was that the transmitters of Iranian culture, namely the Shu'ubites, were correctly suspected of trying to replace Islamic standards with those of Iranian origins in the guise of adab, or at least of wanting to bring Islam into line with Iranian culture.

They were thought to be exploiting their political and administrative positions in the Abbasid bureaucracy with a view to reparation for Iran's military defeat through cultural victory.

Numerous reports give evidence of the cultural effort of the Iranians and the adverse reaction of the Arabs. Two examples are cited below.

Jahez in his Rasa'el criticizes the secretaries (dabirs) because as soon as they gain some superficial knowledge of the maxims of Bozorgmehr, the counsels of Ardashir, the letters of Abd al-Hamid, the adab of Ebn al-Moqaffa', the book of Mazdak, and Kalila wa Demna, they think themselves the equals of Ebn al-Abbas in theology and exegesis, Mo'az ibn Jabal in jurisprudence, Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) in judging and sentencing, and Asma'i and Abu Obayda in philology and genealogy; then they defame the Quran by calling it self-contradictory, describe the Traditions as lies, and deny the superiority of the Prophet Muhammad's Companions.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Saba Institute to host 15th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts

TEHRAN – The 15th edition of the Fajr Festival of Visual Arts opened on Friday evening at the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran.

440 artworks in the categories of painting, illustration, cartoon, photography, calligraphy, graphic design, sculpture and miniature are competing for Golden Tooba in the official section.

In addition, 274 works in different categories have been showcased in Qolleha (Tops), a competitive section for veteran artists.

Winners in each category will also be awarded a 300 million rials (about \$720 based on Iran's free-market exchange rate: \$1 = over 420,000 rials) prize money.

The winners of honorable mentions will be given 100 million rials prize money.

Works from the non-competitive sections of the festival are also on view at major galleries in the capitals of 32 provinces across the country.

"The organizers have done their best to decentralize the festival," Mostafa Zaravandian, the director of the festival's provincial exhibitions, said last week during a press conference.

Works by 12 artists from each province are on display in each

Art lovers visit the 15th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts at the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran on January 27, 2023. (ISNA/Negin Hemmatzadeh)

provincial capital, he added and noted that this movement may help find promising young artists in different media.

Speaking to journalists at the opening ceremony of the festival, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Mahmud Salari said that he has previously entered talks with the country's major art universities to have their collaboration in the event.

"Therefore, students and

academics are playing key roles in organizing this year's festival," he added.

In calls published on social media, groups of artists have asked their colleagues to boycott the festival in support of the protest organized against the Iranian government in autumn.

Salari accused these groups of exerting pressure on other artists to get them to withdraw from the festival and said that their acts

restrict the freedom of action of other artists.

The event is one of the Fajr festivals, which are organized every year in January and February to celebrate the Islamic Revolution anniversary.

The 15th edition of the Fajr Festival of Visual Arts will run until February 17, while winners will be honored in a special ceremony on February 24.

Moscow Museum of Oriental Art to showcase works by Hassan Ruholamin

A poster for the Museum of Oriental Art's exhibition of paintings by Hassan Ruholamin.

From Page 1 ► In the canvases of Ruholamin, one can see the life of a suffering and loving heart, embodying all his tragic

Jacques Rancière's "Mute Speech" delivered at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – French philosopher Jacques Rancière's book "Mute Speech: Literature, Critical Theory, and Politics" has been published in Persian.

Ney is the publisher of the book translated by Mehdi Amirkhanlu.

Rancière has continually unsettled political discourse, particularly through his questioning of aesthetic "distributions of the sensible," which configure the limits of what can be seen and said.

Widely recognized as a seminal work in Rancière's corpus, the translation of which

Front cover of the Persian edition of Jacques Rancière's book "Mute Speech".

is long overdue, Mute Speech is an intellectual tour de force

proposing a new framework for thinking about the history of art and literature.

Rancière argues that our current notion of "literature" is a relatively recent creation, having first appeared in the wake of the French Revolution and with the rise of Romanticism.

In its rejection of the system of representational hierarchies that had constituted belles-letters, "literature" is founded upon a radical equivalence in which all things are possible expressions of the life of a people.

With an analysis reaching

back to Plato, Aristotle, the German Romantics, Vico and Cervantes, and concluding with brilliant readings of Flaubert, Mallarmé and Proust, Rancière demonstrates the uncontrollable democratic impulse lying at the heart of literature's still-vital capacity for reinvention.

Rancière is an emeritus professor of philosophy at the University of Paris-VIII.

His books include "The Politics of Aesthetics," "On the Shores of Politics," "Short Voyages to the Land of the People," "The Future of the Image" and "The Nights of Labor".

Wedding Halva

the events vividly, and that made the writing very effective.

*** What was the necessity of covering the life of his mother as the opening part of the book?**

In this book, I have completely discussed the life of the martyr's mother, Soqra Zulfiquari, because I wanted to show what a wonderful mother this man had!

In fact, the first 50 pages of the book refer to the life of this mother, and then, in the following pages, I will discuss the activities of her son.

*** As the author of the book, which part of Muhammad Reza Moradi's life was very interesting?**

To be honest, it was his mother's words that were very interesting to me. In my opinion, she is a role model for every Iranian woman. Contentment, patience, empathy, companionship with her husband in all situations, and standing against all difficulties were among the points that drew my attention.

*** Which points were important to focus on when writing "Wedding Halva"?**

My main consideration in writing this book

was that historically, the events should be chronologically sequential, and the story should be narrated in a way that shows the time period correctly.