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Op-ed

George Washington University must be held accountable on how it mistreated the people of Iran?

By Hossein Askari

This is a brief story of a gift from the Ministry of Higher Education of Iran to the George Washington University (GW) in 1974, which inexplicably evaporated into thin air some 45 years later in 2019 and then miraculously reappeared in 2022. The management and status of the Aryamehr-Iran Endowment at George Washington University must be investigated and reported to hold GW accountable to the government of Iran, acknowledge the generosity of the Iranian people and support Iranian education. ► Page 3

Report

Are alleged war crimes only in Ukraine?

TEHRAN - The West has sanctioned Russian officials and military personnel but continues to defend arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in the war on Yemen.

This is a duplicity and exercise of double standards. The West also attempts to politicize international law for domestic and national interests.

The Western position on civilian harm and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen and continued licensing of arms exports to Saudi Arabia are quite inconsistent with the policy it has adopted toward the Ukraine war.

Western governments have stated that civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure by Russia in Ukraine are in many cases in serious violation of IHL. ► Page 5

Report

Canada; mass grave of indigenous children

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN- The natives of Canada and the US have a painful past. This truth was revealed when the mass graves of hundreds of Indigenous children who died while attending boarding schools were discovered in Canada in the summer of 2021.

For decades, a large number of Indigenous children in Canada who were taken from their families and forced into boarding schools never returned home.

An investigative team has found 66 more potential unmarked graves at a former residential school in British Columbia, the Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) said Wednesday at a press conference. ► Page 5

Drone attack on defense infrastructure in Isfahan failed

TEHRAN- Air defense troops thwarted a drone attack on a military workshop in the central city of Isfahan on Saturday night, the Iranian Defense Ministry said a statement on Sunday.

The ministry showed reaction shortly after reports of an explosion at one of Isfahan's military complexes.

Several micro aerial vehicles (MAVs) had attempted to assault one of its workshop complexes but that the complex's air defenses had been able to resist the attack, the ministry said.

"Two of the MAVs were trapped in its defensive traps and detonated, while the other one was brought down by the complex's air defense fire," the ministry added in its statement. ► Page 2

America's Message; Futile or Fruitful?



► Page 2

© ISNA/ Majid Khah

Iran among world's top 5 turbine manufacturers

TEHRAN - Deputy Head of Iran Powerplant Repairs Company has said the country is currently among the world's top manufacturers of steam and gas turbines, IRIB reported.

"Currently, there are less than 10 major turbine manufacturing companies in the world, including GE, Siemens, and Mapna that manufacture gas and steam turbines," Mohammad Gharaei said on Sunday.

The official noted that Iran is also among the

world's leading countries in terms of repairing and overhauling turbines.

"We have carried out many international projects and we are negotiating with Russia, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria to collaborate in new important projects," Gharaei said.

In April 2021, Iran's former President Hassan Rouhani unveiled the country's first domestically-made steam turbine rotor which was installed

in a power plant near the capital Tehran.

The construction of the mentioned turbine placed Iran among the world's top five steam turbine manufacturers.

The 82.5 MW turbine rotor which was manufactured by Iran Power Plant Repairs Company saved the country over \$13 million since for importing the mentioned rotor nearly \$21 million had to be spent. ► Page 4

'Houses of environment' promoting cooperation between NGOs, volunteers

TEHRAN - An official with the department of environment has said 'houses of environment' have been promoting the cooperation between non-governmental organizations and volunteers.

Abolqassem Mousavi told ISNA that 86 houses of environment have so far been established across the country.

According to the Constitution, people should participate in environmental protection. This requires training, he stressed.

For this reason, the houses of environment were launched as a platform for interaction and understanding, as well as boosting effective cooperation between volunteers, environmentalists, and NGOs.

In September 2022, Mousavi said the Department of Environment plans to launch environment houses across the country. ► Page 7



© ISNA/ Soheyl Faraji

Strong quake in northwest kills 3, injures hundreds

TEHRAN - An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 on the Richter scale hit the northwestern city of Khoy, West Azarbaijan province, on Sunday night, killing three and wounding hundreds of others.

The quake happened at 09:44 p.m. local time at a depth of seven kilometers.

Official data put the number of injured people at 816. ► Page 7

In Hamedan, ancient monuments and gigantic in-cave lake await

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - From the dramatic sceneries to countless cultural sites, and from archeological sites to the largest in-cave lake on the planet, Hamedan offers a variety of destinations for history buffs, sightseers and nature lovers.

A surprising aspect of the central-west city, which never fails to provide visitors with cultural

heritage sites, is made up of picturesque natural landscapes, traditional dining establishments, public gardens, vibrant outdoor markets, and, most importantly, its friendly people.

Sprawling on a high plain, the ancient city was built by the Medes, Assyrians, Persians, and Parthians. It may no longer be the legendary metropolis it once was, but it still boasts all the culture you'd expect from a lo-

cation with such a long history.

It is perhaps best known as the location of the Tomb of Avicenna, which commemorates and celebrates the life of the Islamic world's most revered scientist. The Ali Sadr Cave and the inscriptions of the Ganjnameh, which were created by the Darius and Xerxes rulers of ancient Persia, are two more amazing sights to see. ► Page 6

From Inside



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Tehran Papers



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

Israel fishing in troubled waters

Mohsen Pakayin, the former ambassador of Iran in Baku, in interview with "Shargh", called Israel's uproar after the attack on the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran "fishing in troubled waters". ► Page 2

EU realized that putting IRGC on terrorist list is 'play with fire': Iran FM

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Sunday that the Council of European Ministers realized that placing the IRGC on the list of terrorist organization is a "play with fire".

Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with four parliamentarians, Esmail Kowsari, who have been sanctioned by the European Union.

The sanctions showed that the EU doesn't have a "true understanding" of the situation inside Iran and even of the Iranians outside the country, the foreign minister pointed out.

The sanctions "show that your words and moves in defending the interests of the country have been effective" and the EU took such a decision in reaction to such important positions, Abdollahian remarked.

On January 19, the European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization and asked the EU and its member states to put the IRGC on the terrorist list. ► Page 2

Iranian photojournalist Mehdi Bolurian on Andrei Stenin Press Photo Contest jury

TEHRAN - Iranian photojournalist Mehdi Bolurian has been selected for the jury of the Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest.

In a statement published last week by the organizers, Bolurian expressed his happiness over joining the jury of the Russian contest for photojournalists aged between 18 and 33.

The photographer who works for the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said that the 2023 contest would be different from previous editions and hoped to see a new world in this year's pictures after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing some wonderful pictures from around the world," he added. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Israel fishing in troubled waters

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

from page 1 ► After the armed attack on the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran on Friday morning, we see a political, diplomatic, and media campaign against the Islamic Republic by the media of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Israel, he said.

In the meantime, the hostile Farsi-language media outlets have tried to fuel the anti-Iran hubbub, Mohsen Pakayin said, adding: By inciting President Aliyev, the media are trying to make the relations between Tehran and Baku, which is at a fragile state, tenser than before in order to prepare the ground for Israel's influence in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Some media in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Israel, and Turkey are trying to make the attack, which was carried out with personal motives, a security, political and terrorist act with fake narratives.

He further pointed out the effective role of the media of the two countries in the restoration of relations between Tehran and Baku and said: Whenever the relations between Tehran and Baku have progressed, it was because of the performance of the media in the two countries; on the contrary, whenever at times, as in the past 48 hours, the relations between the two countries have been strained, it is related to the performance of media in the two countries.

The ex-ambassador points to Baku's move to withdraw its embassy staff and says: This is a hasty move. We have seen such cases, including when the Russian ambassador in Turkey was assassinated. However, the two countries managed the crisis properly. Therefore, both the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran should take steps in a direction that the incident does not lead to tension and crisis in the relations between the two countries.

Kayhan: Move against IRGC to kill 3 billion people

In an article entitled "Attack on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to kill three billion people", the Kayhan newspaper pointed to a global conspiracy led by the U.S., Europe, and capitalist system to kill a third of the world's population by triggering war, insecurity, inflation, food crisis and epidemics.

"Because Western capitalism knows that resources are limited and will run out in the future, it is determined to preserve the resources necessary for the survival of its Master Race by "destroying one-third of the world's population - more than three billion people."

The plan was presented at the World Economic Forum by the members of the millionaires and globalists club, including Bill Gates, Henry Kissinger, Klaus Schwab - the president and founder of the World Economic Forum - David Rockefeller, George Soros, and Michael Bloomberg to preserve "liberalism and the capitalism" and signed in the US National Security Agency.

Iran, especially its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, stood up against the destruction of three billion people not in virtual space or on the silver screen but in the real battlefield, and thwarted such a criminal and complex project.

That is why the U.S., Europe, and the capitalists are enemy of the IRGC and the current resistance.

The IRGC has not only protected the lives and security of 80 million Iranians and the people of the region but it also has saved the lives of three billion people.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Naval authority in America's backyard

In an article titled "Maritime Authority in the U.S. Backyard", Vatan-e-Emrooz cites the deputy commander of the Iranian navy as saying: The naval fleet raised the Iranian flag in western Latin America.

According to the daily, Iran's navy has finally established its scope of presence from the East to the West of the globe. The navy, which had expanded its presence in

the past years, reached the Americas to demonstrate Iran's power in the far corners of the world.

On Sep 30, 2022, Navy Chief Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani announced the beginning of the mission of the 86th naval fleet to sail azure waters across the globe.

He announced the message of the 86th naval fleet of the navy "as peace and friendship".

At the same time, Admiral Irani added: The 86th fleet of the navy is going around the globe to show Iran's power to the whole world, God willing.

Arman-e-Melli: The opportunity for negotiations has not yet ended

Writing in an analysis in Arman-e-Melli, foreign affairs analyst Ali Asghar Zargar says: The developments in the relations between Iran and Europe are not very promising. The European Council did not include the IRGC on its terrorist list, but by imposing new sanctions against Iran they showed that they have not greatly changed their positions.

Therefore, it does not seem that we will see a change in the positions of the Europeans in short term.

Meanwhile, in the past few days the U.S. Congress announced again that negotiations to revive the JCPOA is not on its agenda and that it supports unrest in Iran. As a result, Europe and America have turned to a kind of diplomatic pressure.

Yet the negotiations have not completely stalemated as the Westerners want to solve the Iran's nuclear case in any possible way. However, on the issues relevant to the International Atomic Energy Agency, it should be said that the international body is only doing its work. It works on inspection and verification and must give reports on Iran. The coming trip (to Iran) by Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), means that the procedure of negotiations with Iran have not been stopped.

In the end, the foreign affairs analysts writes: Of course, as many experts have acknowledged, negotiation with Iran on its nuclear program also depends on the crisis management in Iran after unrest. But the Westerners should know that if they want to put all their pressure on Iran and hope that the protesters in Iran will do something, nothing will happen.

Jomhoori-e-Eslami: Attack on Azerbaijan embassy only for personal reasons?

"The efforts that are being made to politicize the incident at the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran show that the Iranian authorities should take special care in all fields of security and politics, especially international relations," Jomhoori-e-Eslami writes.

The man who attacked the embassy stated that he did it for personal reasons, but this does not mean that there was no political motive behind the attack.

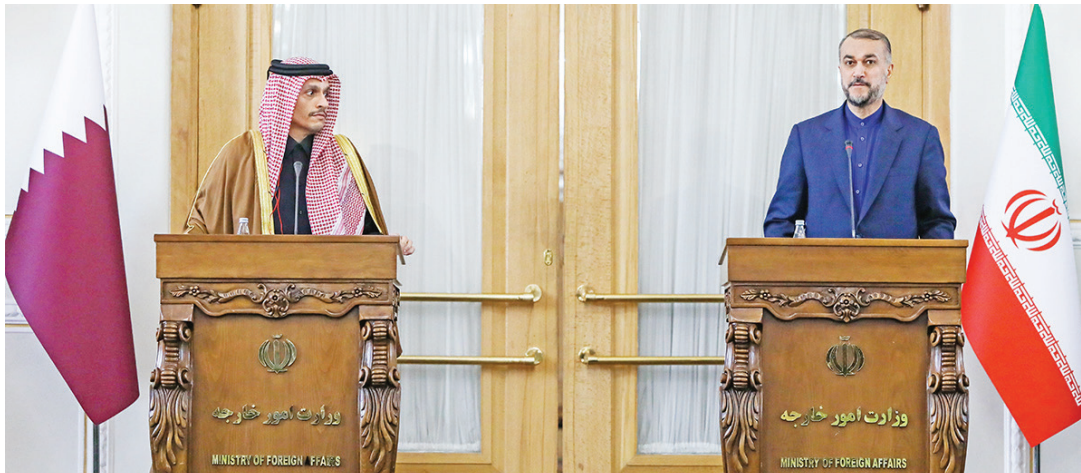
The quick reactions of several European ambassadors in Baku to the incident and the statements of Turkey and the Zionist regime all show that some countries are waiting for an incident so that they can use it to create tension between Tehran and Baku.

The case of Zangezur Corridor, which has become a controversial issue between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan in recent months, coupled with Iran's announcement that it will not allow any change in its international borders with its neighbors have prompted some regional countries and even Europeans to abuse the dispute.

Since Baku, after its victories in the Karabakh war, which was achieved with the help of Turkey and the Zionist regime, may see itself in a position of power and take action.

Considering these points, the role of the spy agencies of the Zionist regime and some other countries in the region and the West cannot be ignored in the Baku embassy incident in Tehran.

America's message; futile or fruitful?



TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Sunday that his Qatari counterpart carried messages from the parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Speaking in a joint press conference in Tehran with Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassem Al Thani, the top Iranian diplomat praised Doha's efforts during global negotiations to resurrect the nuclear accord, which has been in limbo since the United States unilaterally withdrew from it in 2018.

The foreign minister of Qatar also confirmed he was carrying a message from the United States regarding the negotiations to revive the JCPOA and also expressed hope that the gnarls of talks would be unwrapped soon.

The new message of the Americans surrounding the JCPOA comes at a time when American officials have emphasized several times in recent weeks that the revival of the JCPOA is not on Washington's agenda and their focus is on other issues.

The fact is that Americans were pinning hope on street riots in Iran during the last few months. With the uprisings scaling down, their hope disappeared to exploit disturbances.

Now is the time to see how serious, progressive and constructive the new message of the Americans is.

There will be no opening in the

JCPOA revival talks, if Americans' message be the repetition of the same wrong past positions because Iran has repeatedly emphasized that it is not ready to pay ransom to the White House.

Iran welcomes Qatar's diplomatic moves

Without going into any detail, Amir Abdollahian stated, "Today, we got messages from the JCPOA parties via the Qatari foreign minister."

He declared that Iran welcomes Qatar's diplomatic moves or delivery of messages intended to assist the JCPOA parties to resolve remaining issues in the efforts to achieve the goal of lifting U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Given the question regarding the continuation of U.S. economic pressure against Iran, Abdollahian responded, "Unfortunately, conducting economic terrorism against independent countries is on the U.S. agenda"

"Iran has employed a variety of techniques to counteract the sanctions and will keep doing it," the senior Iranian diplomat said, adding, "We will continue to cooperate with our allies in the region to oppose such counterproductive efforts, which are in fact a systematic infringement of human rights."

The Qatari foreign minister, for his part, affirmed that he conveyed messages from several JCPOA parties to his Iranian counterpart on a variety of concerns.

EU realized that putting IRGC on terrorist list is 'play with fire': Iran FM

from page 1 ► Abdollahian said after the move by the European Parliament he talked to concerned EU officials and unequivocally told them that if the EU does something against the IRGC as a sovereign body and part of Iran's official military, Tehran's response will be harsh.

He added, "They (Europeans) are aware of their situation and know their vulnerability in this regard."

After the resolution by the European Parliament, Abdollahian talked to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

Foreign Minister said much discussions took place among EU officials on whether take a decision on the IRGC or not and finally they realized that they cannot "play with fire" and then they put forward a second plan and put some individuals, including four lawmakers, on their sanctions list.

The foreign minister told the four MPs that "since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution some of you have not had even a working trip to Europe and also don't have any capital there, therefore

these sanctions are 'just a kind of show'."

The minister added these four legislators have been sanctioned because of their influence on the society, region and the resistance front.

"The European sides have 'naively' taken such measures and its consequences will be heavy for them."

The minister expressed hope that the four MPs will appear more active in defending the country's national security and interests.

"Your inclusion on the list of sanctions will make more influential and now you are a loud tribune for the dear Iranian people, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution."

On January 23, Borrell said designating the IRGC as terrorist could only happen if a court in an EU country determined that the IRGC was guilty of terrorism.

"You cannot say 'I consider you a terrorist because I don't like you,'" he told reporters ahead of the talks between EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Swedish Foreign Minister Billstrom also said on

Now is the right time to resolve the problems surrounding moves to resurrect the JCPOA and lay the foundation for the parties to negotiate a binding agreement, Al Thani said.

He went on to say that he also delivered messages from the U.S. to Iran, and that his government will keep working to clear up misconceptions between the parties and get them back to their obligations under the nuclear deal.

The Qatari minister also noted that Doha aspires to foster regional stability and help restore the JCPOA, which plays an essential role in this respect.

In May 2018 former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew Washington from the JCPOA, a deal signed between Tehran and six other countries three years earlier.

As part of his "maximum pressure" campaign, Trump also placed severe economic penalties on Tehran.

In April 2021, months after Joe Biden succeeded Trump, negotiations to save the deal began in Vienna, Austria.

They were intended to gauge Washington's commitment to rejoining the accord and lifting sanctions on Iran.

"Iran embraces regional dialogue to bring about peace"

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized that talks and accountability are essential for fostering long-term collaboration in the region while stating that Iran has always supported dialogue among regional nations.

"We believe that dialogue and co-operation can be exclusive and successful ways to achieve regional peace, stability and collective security," he stressed.

He pointed out that Tehran and Doha share the same opinion on the necessity of accelerating the development of ties and removing any potential barriers in this respect.

"Drone attack on military workshop"

Referring to the Saturday night drone strike on a military facility in the central city of Isfahan, Amir Abdollahian called it a "cowardly" measure which enemies strive to sow instability in Iran.

Such actions would have no effect on the specialists' determination to advance Iran's peaceful nuclear program, he asserted.

He said that the Iranian security forces are working tirelessly to provide "maximum security" for the country.

"Qatari proposed ideas about war in Ukraine"

The Iranian foreign minister also underlined that his Qatari counterpart has made suggestions on the current conflict in Ukraine.

Amir Abdollahian noted that the first round of political negotiations between Iran and Ukraine took place in Oman and that Tehran appreciated Doha's assistance in facilitating the second round of negotiations.

"Tehran-Riyadh ties"

Also, Amir Abdollahian said Iran and Saudi Arabia will undertake a new round of negotiations and announced that negotiations with Bahrain were also ongoing through an intermediary.

He also stated that Iran has no issues with any of its neighbors.

Successful negotiations and message exchanges with the Persian Gulf governments are underway, the chief diplomat remarked.



January 25 that "the Guard Corps cannot be put on the list of terrorist organization just for violating human rights in Iran, rather they should have ties with terrorism."

Otherwise, he warned, there is a "danger that a person who is sanctioned would file a complaint at the European Court of Justice and be 'delisted' and such a thing has happened in the past, therefore I don't think such a move will be rational," DW reported.

In his January 19 meeting with Borrell, Abdollahian said the move by European Parliament is "shot in the foot".

Top legislator warns European attempts to isolate Tehran

TEHRAN- The deputy speaker of the Iranian Parliament has threatened Europe with a surprising and awakening response if it continues to pursue hostile and aggressive policies toward Tehran and does not change its policy toward the Islamic Republic.

"Over the past few months, the enemies of the Iranian nation have resorted to hybrid warfare to distort realities in the Islamic Republic. Now that they

have miserably failed to achieve their objective, they are trying to exert pressure on Iran at the international level through various political scenarios," Ali Nikzad said on Sunday, Press TV reported.

The European Union would further lose its respectability and credibility in the eyes of the public throughout the world if it fully complies with American demands, he said. "We exhort

Europeans to use common sense and refrain from sacrificing their interests in favor of U.S. goals."

Nikzad emphasized that Iran will unquestionably respond to any desperate and foolish attempt to classify the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization because the IRGC is a recognized military force.

Drone attack on defense infrastructure in Isfahan failed

from page 1 ► The ministry stated that the failed attempt just caused minor damage to a workshop's roof. It also stated that the facility resumed regular activities after the incident.

"Thanks to God's blessing, the attack caused no disruption to the equipment and the operations of the complex," said the statement.

The ministry reassured the Iranian people that such blatant attacks won't have an impact on the nation's general path toward development.

When the security personnel, stationed in the complex, detected the sound of quadcopters, they attempted to counter these MAVs and were successful in intercepting one of the three sophisti-

cated quadcopters armed with bomblets that were utilized in the attack.

The complex had already encountered a situation like this, and the apt measures have been adopted in the wake of any similar incident to foil any serious harm.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

George Washington University must be held accountable on how it mistreated the people of Iran?

From Page 1 ▶ In 1974, the Ministry of Higher Education of Iran made a gift to GW, creating an endowment to support Iranian education (the 5-page agreement was signed by Iran's Ambassador to the U.S.). It was the first endowed chair at the GW School of Government and Business Administration and the largest university chair at GW. This endowment was in part established because the Shah and the president of GW (Lloyd Elliott) were Free Masons and knew each other. This gift was so important to GW that President Elliott traveled twice to Iran to secure this endowment of \$1 million, which was more than 5 percent of GW's total endowment in 1974, a massive transformational gift and if invested in the S&P 500 with the dividends reinvested would have amounted to over \$100 million today.

The first faculty beneficiary of this endowment was Professor Phillip Grub (a Free Mason) who retired in 1992-1994. The endowment afforded him a stipend on top of his university salary, a full-time secretary, numerous research assistants, travel support and academic supplies. When he retired, GW used income and even some of the principal from the endowment to fund unrelated endeavors during 1992-1998. Professor Hossein Askari accepted the chair in 1998. He redirected his research toward areas of interest to Iranians and lectured on finance in Iran, in order to fulfill the goal of the Aryamehr Endowment for the first time since its inception. Around 2002, the government of Iran wanted the name of the endowment



changed from Aryamehr to "Allawi," so Askari met with the GW president to discuss the matter. Noteworthy is the racist manner in which the president greeted Askari as he entered the room, namely, "Do I need bodyguards?" In the end, the president decided to rename the endowment "Iran" because he said that Iran would always exist, while regimes change and have different ideologies. The Iranian government did not object.

As holder of the Iran Chair Professor Askari received monthly expenditure reports on the endowment for about eight or so years and at the end of each year he would be told the amount that would be available to him (these figures did not reflect GW's potential misuse of funds or the annual income that was being added to the principal of the endowment) so that he could file a financial report with the executive vice president for academic affairs (the chief academic officer of the university). Disturbed by the management of the endowment, Askari questioned GW's practices. After much back and forth

and Askari's filing of a grievance, the executive vice president of GW agreed to begin a program for Iranian fellowships, awarding a 50% tuition fellowship for five incoming graduate students (pursuing a master's degree in all fields except law and medicine) each year, beginning around 2006. The program was established with the full participation of Professor Askari who, as holder of the Iran Chair, was tasked with the supervision of this initiative, selecting student awardees, advising them, monitoring their progress and reporting annually to the executive vice president. The program thrived and helped numerous students get an education. The program did not entail any out-of-pocket costs for GW as many of the recipients would not have enrolled at GW without such support and the fellowship was awarded by GW and not from the Iran Endowment. While this did not address most of the issues that troubled Professor Askari about GW's management of the endowment, it was a goodwill gesture that Professor Askari appreciated and hoped would be expanded to benefit the education of Iranians.

Things changed in 2010 with a provost and associate provost. The incoming provost was very supportive of Professor Askari's work, on the other hand with the passage of time and without Professor Askari's knowledge, the new vice provost abruptly cancelled the Iran Studies Fellowship Program. The cancellation was posted on GW's fellowship website and Professor Askari was made of this development by a student. Professor Askari was so disgusted that he decided to take early retirement from GW as soon as an early retirement package became available.

After Professor Askari took early retirement, GW did not appoint a successor to the Iran Chair and the disposition of the Endowment became even murkier. As the last holder of the chair, Professor Askari was contacted by the vice president of President of Iran to look into the matter—to see what was going on with the appointment of a new Iran Professor, to get an accounting of the funds and of the status of the Iran studies fellowships. The vice president of Iran (himself a GW doctoral graduate in economics and earlier listed by GW as one of its distinguished graduates) wrote two letters in 2019, asking the president of GW to meet Professor Askari and to provide him with an audit and information pertaining to the status of the Iran Endowment. The president of GW would not meet with Professor Askari and wrote that Askari could instead meet with the provost who earlier as vice provost had ended the Iranian Fellowship Program.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Algeria willing to widen ties

TEHRAN- Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and his Algerian counterpart Ibrahim Boughali discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties.

They discussed shared points of interest on the sidelines of the 17th session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Conference (PUIC).

The Iranian speaker expressed optimism that the ties between Tehran and Algiers will foster Islamic unity and the battle against the Zionist regime in line with supporting the oppressed Palestinian people.

Additionally, the speaker anticipated that the OIC session would be successful in foiling the enemies' plans.

Qalibaf cautioned the Islamic nations that the Zionists intended to fracture their unity.



Boughali, for his part, said that the Algerian parliament is eager to expand its collaboration with the Iranian side in a number of sectors, particularly commerce.

The top Algerian lawmaker also addressed the Palestinian cause and said it was the biggest concern of the modern world.

He continued by saying that his nation works to assist Palestine in becoming a UN member.

Boughali also emphasized that it is essential

for the Palestinians to remain united because it can enable them to stand strong against the Zionist regime.

In response to recent incidents against Muslims, the Algerian official stated that the onslaught against Islam and the recent desecration of the Holy Quran demonstrate that Islam is self-evident.

He also underscored the importance of running a kind of mechanism to promote Islam, the "religion of truth".

Boughali remarked that the Palestinian cause is always on the agenda of the Islamic nations.

The PUIC is scheduled to discuss the risks and challenges facing the Muslim world as well as the significant escalation of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people.

Azerbaijan withdraws staff from Tehran embassy

TEHRAN- Azerbaijan was to withdraw embassy personnel and family members from Iran on Sunday, according to Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry.

The decision followed two days after a gunman stormed the embassy and killed a security officer and injured two others.

Iranian officials denounced the attack on Friday and declared the gunman had a personal, not a political, purpose.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian suggested that foes should not be permitted to exploit the situation.

In a phone call with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov

on Friday, Abdollahian underlined, "We should not allow this incident to have any detrimental influence on relations between the two nations."

Abdollahian also stressed the attack was not an act of terrorism.

He also suggested that the security agencies of the two countries might jointly investigate the incident to shed light on the pros and cons of the incident.

"Iran, Azerbaijan will never let anyone harm bilateral relations"

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that Tehran and Baku have indissoluble historical ties and would not permit others to harm such ties.

Raisi made the statements following a phone conversation with his Azeri counterpart, Ilham Aliyev.

The phone call took place a day after the deadly attack on the Republic of Azerbaijan's embassy in Tehran.

During the phone call, Raisi expressed the Iranian government's and nation's sympathies to Aliyev.

He went on to say that the cordial and fraternal relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are founded on inseparable cultural and historical ties.

"The governments of Iran and Azerbaijan will not permit the

mutual ties to be swayed by the two nations' detractors," Raisi stressed.

Raisi confirmed that the relevant Iranian government agencies are looking into the many aspects of the terrible occurrence.

The Azeri president, for his part, thanked Raisi for expressing compassion and condolences to the Azeri government and people.

"This was an unexpected crime," Aliyev said, adding, "However, the two countries' cooperation in this issue should be such that nobody would be allowed to use such incidents to disrupt the two countries' friendly relations."

"These crimes against humanity will never remain hidden from the eyes of true justice seekers and that the Canadian government must be held accountable for its past dark days."

The comments by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman come as the Canadian government has agreed to pay more than \$2 billion to hundreds of indigenous communities to settle a lawsuit centered around nearly a century of abuse suffered by children who attended Indian residential schools.

The lawsuit, filed by 325 First Nations communities in 2012, sought compensation for the physical, sexual and mental abuse suffered by indigenous children during the residential school era in Canada, according to Native News Online.

"This great and shocking crime has taken place in a country that its government, through hypocritical shows, is constantly trying to portray itself among the claimants of human rights defenders," Kanaani remarked.

The Canadian government's claims about human rights are just intended to deflect attention from its complicity in this "human tragedy", the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Such pretensions are also a proof that this Ottawa government and its allies are using human rights "as a tool to dictate their politically motivated views on others," he added.

Expressing deep regret over the "scope of crimes and historical genocide" against the indigenous Canadian population, Kanaani said,

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Taj denies reports linking Iran to Hector Cuper

TEHRAN – Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation (IRIFF) Mehdi Taj denied reports that the federation is going to hire Hector Cuper as Team Melli coach.

The local media reported that Iran football federation has negotiated with the 67-year-old coach. Cuper was sacked by DR Congo after a poor start to 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying in June 2022. The coach has had spells in charge of Valencia, Inter Milan and Egypt.

"I've recently seen the rumors on the social media but the federation has not negotiated with the coach," Taj said.

Iran were headed by Carlos Queiroz in the 2022 FIFA World Cup but the federation didn't renew the Portuguese coach's contract.

Under 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.

Taj also said the head coach of Iran U23 football team will be named as soon as possible.

Javanmardi not to compete at 2022 Asian Para Games

TEHRAN – Sareh Javanmardi, known as World Pistol Queen, will not compete at the 2022 Asian Para Games.

World Pistol Queen made her sporting debut in 2008, and in four years' time, she celebrated her first Paralympic appearance with a bronze at London 2012 in P2 (Women's 10 air pistol SH1).

In 2016, Javanmardi made history and captured two gold medals for the Iranian Paralympic delegation and shattered the world record. At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, she moved beyond boundaries and set a new world record and retained crown for the third time at the Paralympic Games.

With so many medals and titles, Javanmardi is now the beacon of hope everywhere she goes and lights up every room she walks into as one of the most decorated female Paralympians in her home soil.

"Javanmardi will not participate at the Asian Para Games due to personal reasons. However, we are optimistic about her return for the 2024 Paralympic Games," Roghieh Allahkaram, head of Iran's Para Shooting Association, said.

Iran's Taghani wins bronze at Ivan Yarygin 2023

TEHRAN – Mostafa Taghani of Iran claimed a bronze medal at the Golden Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin 2023.

He defeated his Russian rival in the bronze medal match of the 125kg weight category.

The gold medal went to Belarusian Dzianis Khramiankou and Russian Ostap Pasenok claimed the silver.

The Golden Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin, also known as Ivan Yarygin (Yariguin) is a United World Wrestling rankings freestyle wrestling international tournament, which was held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia between 26 and 29 January.

Ali Gholizadeh linked with Turkish side Kasimpasa

TEHRAN - Süper Lig side Kasimpasa has reportedly reached an agreement with Iranian international winger Ali Gholizadeh.

The 26-year-old player has been also linked with Iranian teams Persepolis, Esteghlal and Sepahan.

Gholizadeh had already announced that he would part company with Belgian side RSC Charleroi due to personal reasons.

He has played 21 matches for Charleroi and scored just one goal in this season.

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

Esteghlal defender Yazdani joins Sepahan

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team defender Siavash Yazdani joined Sepahan on Sunday.

The 31-year-old player has penned a 2.5-year deal with Sepahan for an undisclosed fee.

He was deemed surplus to requirements in Esteghlal in January transfer window.

Yazdani has previously played in Sepahan from 2017 to 2019.

Sepahan and Esteghlal are favorites to win Iran Professional League.

Alihosseini no more Iran weightlifting head coach

TEHRAN – Saeid Alihosseini announced his withdrawal from Iran weightlifting national team coach on Sunday.

The 2017 World Championships silver medalist replaced Mohammad Hossein Barkhah in June on a three-year contract but stepped down from his role.

Alihosseini led Team Melli in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games and 2022 World Weightlifting Championships.

Iran will participate at the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Jinju, South Korea.

Japanese midfielder Sugita signs for Foolad

TEHRAN – Japanese attacking midfielder Yukiya Sugita officially joined Iranian football club Foolad.

The 30-year-old player has joined Foolad until the end of the season.

Sogita was a member of Iran's Tractor from 2018 to 2020 and scored three goals in 37 matches for the team. Foolad will have to play Saudi Arabian team Al-Faisaly in Round of 16 of the AFC Champions League on Feb. 20.

The team have previously completed the signing of Spanish midfielder Roberto Torres.

Tehran to host Freestyle World Wrestling Clubs Cup

TEHRAN - Tehran will host the next Freestyle World Wrestling Clubs Cup next month, according to a wrestling Iranian official on Sunday.

The head of Iran's Wrestling Federation League Organization said that the 7th edition of the Freestyle World Wrestling Clubs Cup will be held in Tehran on February 17-18.

Hamid Yari said the competition will be held in Tehran's Shohadaye Haft Tir Stadium in downtown the capital. According to the wrestling official, Bank Shahr Club will be the only representative of Iran at the competitions along with five foreign teams.

He also said the Greco-Roman World Wrestling Clubs will be held in Isfahan on February 23-24 with Sepahan Club as the host with the participation of four foreign clubs.

In the last six editions of this competition, Iranian teams have become champions five times in freestyle, while they have won all six editions of the Greco-Roman style.

Yuito Suzuki joins Strasbourg

TEHRAN - Japanese midfielder Yuito Suzuki has joined Ligue 1 outfit Strasbourg from Shimizu S-Pulse on a loan deal with an option to buy, the French club said on Friday.

The promising 21-year-old is the second Japanese player at the club after goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima.

"He's full of talent and potential, and he's also a lovely lad," Kawashima said. "I'll be helping him get settled."

Strasbourg finished in sixth place last season as they narrowly missed out on European qualification, but are currently hovering above the relegation zone.

Problems faced by Alborz province farmers discussed in a meeting

TEHRAN- The issues and problems faced by farmers and producers of agricultural products in Alborz province were addressed in a meeting attended by some provincial officials.

The existence of environmental restrictions, lack of water and land, lack of liquidity, increase in production costs, flight of capital and absorption in the markets of gold and foreign currency, and difficult condition of granting bank facilities to production units were some problems raised and investigated in the meeting which was held last week.

As reported, the meeting was organized by the Investment Making Services Center of the province and participated by the province's heads of Finance and Economic Affairs Department and Agriculture Department, and the chairman of the province's Chamber of Cooperatives.

Addressing the meeting, Reza Jafari, the head of the province's Finance and Economic Affairs Department, said, "Alborz province has many capacities for investment, which unfortunately have been neglected. Among



the available capacities, we can mention the capacity of Alborz in the field of agriculture, especially the construction of greenhouses, which can play an important role in exports, attracting foreign investors, increasing employment, and economic prosperity of the province."

He mentioned the state of foreign investment in Alborz province despite the sanctions and added: "Considering the problems in financial and currency exchanges between Iran and foreign countries; We can solve this problem through barter trade with other countries

Black grapes harvested from 6,500 hectares of Sardasht vineyards



TEHRAN- Sardasht county in Iran's northwestern West Azarbaijan province, is one of the important hubs of black grape production in the country, and black grapes are harvested from 6,500 hectares of fertile vineyards in this county.

Due to the special climate conditions of this county, and gardeners not using fertilizers and

poisons for growing black grapes, a completely organic product is obtained, which has a great reputation, and is highly welcomed by the other provinces.

This type of grape relieves nervous tension, increases breast milk, cleanses the stomach and intestines, and also removes skin wrinkles.

There are about 8,000 hectares of black grape orchards in Sardasht, of which 6,500 hectares are fertile.

Black grapes are technically berries and grow in clusters. These types of grapes are both seeded and seedless, with the difference that black seeded grapes are smaller than seedless ones.

The latest statistics published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that Iran stood among the world's top producers of many agricultural products in 2021.

Tehran hosting Woodex 2023 exhibit

TEHRAN – The 20th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Wood, Raw Materials, Accessories, Fittings, Machinery and Related Industries for Furniture (Woodex 2023) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday.

The four-day exhibition is aimed at introducing new domestic and foreign products, creating an opportunity for manufacturers to interact with businessmen, and providing a platform for introducing the latest achievements of domestic manufacturers in the wood industry, IRIB reported.



Over 200 exhibitors are showcasing their latest products and services in this exhibition.

TEDPIX loses 57,900 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 57,900 points to 1.542 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 12.406 billion securities worth 65.975 trillion rials (about \$165 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 49,839 points, and the second market's index lost 93,730 points

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

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

Iranian government has allocated 150 trillion rials (about \$375 million) to the country's Capital Market Stabilization and Development Fund (CMSDF) in the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402 (begins on March 21) to support small shareholders, Tasnim news agency reported on January 1.

As reported, the government has decided to supply the mentioned fund from the shares of state-owned companies to protect small shareholders against the risks of the capital market.

Also, in order to strengthen the companies active in the market, a part of their profit which is allocated to increasing their capital is going to be exempted from tax; this will encourage such companies to increase capital and expand their activities.

Iran among world's top 5 turbine manufacturers

from page 1 ► Earlier in March 2021, the managing director of Iran's Mapna Group, which is the first and leading West Asia-based general contractor of thermal power plants in the MENA region, said that Iran was going to become an exporter of new classes of gas turbines in near future.

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of a deal for manufacturing an MGT-75 gas turbine for Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH), Abbas Ali-Abadi said: "Iran now has the knowledge and technology to design and manufacture a variety of new gas turbines on a global

scale."

As Iran's top engineering and energy enterprise, Mapna had previously manufactured E-class and F-class turbines such as MGT-70.

The mentioned turbines have been used in domestic power stations as well as major power projects in neighboring countries like Iraq.

Iran used to import such pieces of equipment from foreign sources such as Germany's Siemens. And now enjoying such technology, the country is among the world's top manufacturers of power plants with high efficiency.



13th gov't attracts 2.5 times more foreign investment

TEHRAN – The head of the Organization for Investment Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran said that \$5.95 billion of foreign investment has been attracted during the 13th government, which shows a 250% growth compared with the last year of the former government.

The main mission of the organization is to attract foreign investment, Ali Fekri said.

He added that the 13th government has approved 338 investment plans worth \$10.2 billion.



He noted that \$5.95 billion worth of investment has been implemented.

Transit of goods via Iran rises 7.4% in 10 months on year

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Iran increased 7.43 percent in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that 11 million tons of commodities have been transited via the country in the 10-month period.

After seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved,



the former spokesman of IRICA has previously announced.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world and the efforts and cooperation of

transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as

the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

Over 200,000 tons of copper cathode produced in 9 months

TEHRAN- Production of copper cathode in Iran stood at 216,000 tons in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

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

Iran plans to increase its copper cathode production to one million tons per annum within the next six years under the framework of a comprehensive plan for copper industry development, Chairman of Iran Copper Association Bahram Shakouri announced last November.

According to Shakouri based on the mentioned plan which has been drafted by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the country's copper cathode output is expected to reach 800,000 tons per annum by 2025.

He put the country's current copper cathode production at over 300,000 tons adding that the one-million-ton goal will be achieved by the cooperation of private sectors and the development of current projects.

"The world's movement towards the use of clean technologies and innovations will increase the consumption of non-ferrous metals such as copper, and in the coming years, there will be a need to supply copper up to four times today," Shakouri said.

The increase in demand will increase the price of copper, and accordingly, we must move towards completing the copper chain in Iran, he added.

"Today, the copper chain is complete with cathode production in the country, while more than 50 percent of the copper cathode is being exported, and if we can create more added value in this sector, we will have more exports and gain more revenue," Shakouri concluded.

Production of copper cathode in Iran rose 2.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has previously reported.

As reported, the country produced 299,000 tons of the product in the past year.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

Being located on the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt, of which about 12.5 percent is located in Iran, the country should contribute greatly to the fourfold increase in the world's copper production by 2050, Shakouri has stated.

Stressing the need for planning to increase Iran's share in the world's copper production, he added: "To increase our share in the global copper production in the 2050 horizon, we must develop both exploration and extraction and discover new world-class reserves."

Loading, unloading of goods in ports up 9% in 10 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by nine percent in the first 10 months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported, 181,055,811 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the 10-month period.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2,100,506 TEUs, which was 12 percent more than the 1,870,370 TEUs in the first 10 months of the past year.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more

than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the

government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

From page 1 ► However, when it comes to the war on Yemen, the U.S., the UK, Canada and many European governments have kept silent on the atrocities and war crimes that have been documented by multiple monitoring and aid groups over the past eight years.

This silence shows that as the West is a complicit in the Ukraine war, it is also complicit in the Yemen war.

The impunity for violations undermines any further Western efforts to publicly preach to others about respecting international law.

The eight-year bombing of Yemen is viewed as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia, backing the former Yemeni government, and the new revolutionary government in the capital Sana'a led by a coalition of parties named Ansarallah.

But it has always been more complex than that.

Involvement by a terrorist group with links to al-Qaeda and the creation of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a body advocating independence for southern Yemen, complicate things, as do other local conflicts.

One of these conflicts is between Ansarallah, battling the al-Qaeda-linked terror group on one hand and defending the country's territorial integrity on the other.

Senior Yemeni politicians have regularly declared that U.S. arms shipments for the Saudis to the tune of tens of billions of dollars, along with other means of support such as intelligence and training.

Yemeni officials have always referred to their enemies as the U.S.-Saudi coalition opposed to Western media and politicians that refer to those waging war on Yemen as a Saudi-led coalition.

The legacy of the conflict also plays a factor.

As a result of British imperialism followed by the several decades of Saudi Arabia's control of almost all Yemeni sectors continues to have a major impact.

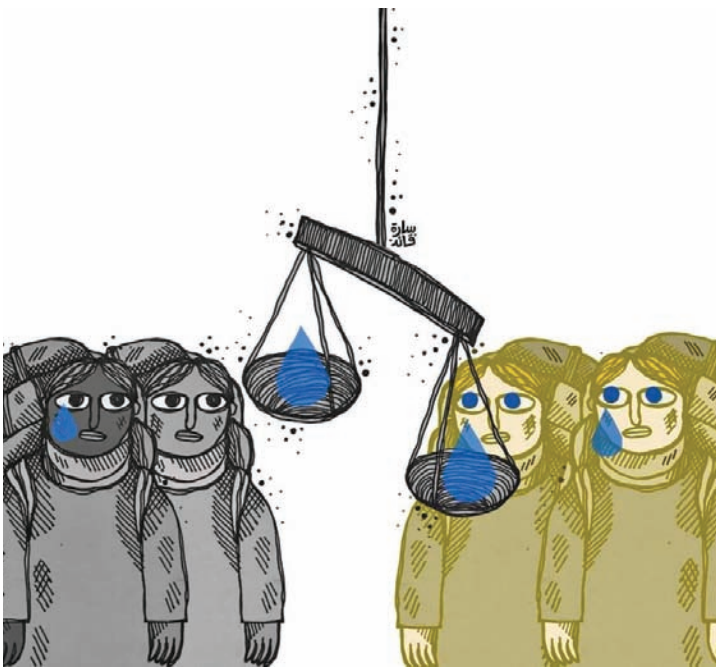
However, the ongoing war on Yemen, the mass suffering of its people and large-scale destruction to the country's infrastructure would not have been possible without arming Saudi Arabia.

The U.S, the UK and Canada followed by European countries are Saudi Arabia's largest arms suppliers.

U.S. arms shipments to Riyadh over the past decade have reportedly exceeded \$300 billion.

UK sales alone since 2015 are likely to amount to over £20 billion.

There have been many alleged war crimes that have been committed against Yemenis. Reports by prominent monitoring groups should be taken into account and hold the Western governments accountable for



Are alleged war crimes only in Ukraine?

their complicity in helping the Saudis in the war on Yemen.

While the West claims Iran has been supporting one side of the Yemen war, the reality that is Tehran has never shipped any weapons to Sana'a (nor has it smuggled any).

Iranian officials have repeatedly dismissed Western allegations of arming Ansarallah.

Iran has never been an external combatant in the war.

The all-out air, sea and land blockade of Yemen has prevented the vital fuel and humanitarian supplies from reaching the country, let alone weapons.

Any vessels or fuel tankers attempting to reach the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah are first inspected by the United Nations and then sent to Saudi Arabia for another round of inspection.

In many cases, these vessels, in particular those delivering fuel are prevented from reaching Yemen by the U.S.-Saudi coalition, which is increasingly intensifying an already bitter humanitarian crisis.

The UN has already described the situation in Yemen as the worst humanitarian crisis that no nation has seen in the modern history.

The external intervention by the West is a major driver in the war, both political and military. This followed after the Islamic Awakening (also referred to in the West as the Arab Spring) put an end to the 30-year dictatorship in the country.

For much of the war on Yemen, the U.S. and UK have maintained an involvement through support for Saudi Arabian military activities. The U.S. Air Force provided inflight refueling for Royal Saudi Air Force warplanes from 2015-2018.

The U.S. also continues a general defense relationship with Saudi Arabia. The UK has continued to give support to Saudi Arabia for any and all military activities in Yemen. While details are understandably scarce, UK special forces have operated against the Ansarallah forces during much of the eight-year war.

Other investigations have reached similar conclusions. This is necessary for accountability to the people of Yemen for the attacks they have unjustly endured.

States party to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) have a legal obligation to ensure their arms are not used in violation of IHL.

European Union (EU) states have an obligation under the Common Position on Arms Exports not to export where a 'clear risk' exists that weapons 'might be used' in serious violations of IHL.

The sheer number of attacks in populated areas and directly on homes indicates that the U.S.-Saudi coalition are at best reckless as to the impact of their military actions.

Over the past year, the international charity group Oxfam has documented over 1,700 attacks that have significantly impacted civilians.

It says there is strong indication that parties to the conflict are not seriously upholding their obligations under IHL and that a clear risk exists that such attacks will occur in the future.

The Western governments who have sold warplanes, missiles and bombs know well that attacks on civilian targets are considered a war crime under international law.

Oxfam data over the past year alone shows 19 attacks have

been committed against medical facilities including hospitals, a clinic and ambulances, which may all constitute serious violations of IHL.

Targeting humanitarian aid is also a serious violation of IHL, and Oxfam notes attacks on an International NGO and three aid warehouses and storage areas are evidence of such crimes.

This is part of a pattern of attacks on aid facilities and Oxfam staff who returned to a site where it had a water warehouse and a solar panel pumping facility found the charity group facilities had been bombed.

There are a number of accountability mechanisms to control the actions of combatant parties and those supplying them with arms. The most effective one, the UN Group of Eminent Experts, was shut down after lobbying by Saudi Arabia and allies.

Unlike Ukraine where refugees have been welcomed across Europe, millions of Yemenis have been displaced internally.

Around 23.7 million Yemenis are in need of assistance, including almost 13 million children. Of those, 7.4 million – some 25% of the population – suffer from malnutrition, including 2 million children, according to Oxfam.

The UN must establish an effective, independent, and widely accepted accountability mechanism that would provide justice for the people of Yemen.

President Trump removed all restrictions on military assistance to Riyadh once he entered the White House. The current U.S. administration remains a key overall supplier and supporter of the Saudi Arabian military.

Despite claims by the President Biden administration that it has curtailed direct support to Saudi offensive operations in Yemen, it is continuing to sell arms to the Saudi Kingdom.

In August 2022 the State Department approved \$3bn sale of Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia and \$2.2bn to the UAE.

Data examined by Oxfam clearly lays out the human harm of the war on Yemen, its multiple impacts on civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure.

There is a clear pattern of harm to civilians through military actions, amounting to hundreds of incidents every month. Much of that harm is done by the Saudi-U.S. coalition through airstrikes across the country.

It is clear that a large number of these indiscriminate attacks are instances of war crimes for which an international investigation must be established.

The absolute impunity for the West seriously undermines its efforts to uphold international law in Ukraine and elsewhere.

The Western supply of arms to warzones ignores international laws and conventions, putting profit of arms companies ahead of legal obligations.

Canada; mass grave of indigenous children

From page 1 ► It brings the number to 159 found at the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School -- 93 were uncovered in May 2021.

Run by the Catholic Oblates order, thousands of Indigenous children were forced to attend the Mission operated between 1886 and 1981.

More than 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend the 139 Indian Residential Schools. The first one opened around 1825 and the last closed in the 1990s.

The schools were funded by the Canadian government and run by various religious denominations. Their mission was to wipe out Indigenous traditions and assimilate the children into white culture.

More than 4,100 children are thought to have died in the schools, sometimes buried in mass graves and at other times in graves that, if they were marked, became obscured over the years.

More than 1,900 unmarked graves have been uncovered to date.

Last year, the findings of mass graves of indigenous children in Canada also caused an

uproar in the world, and it seems that the story is still going on.

Some experts and observers believe that the findings of mass graves of indigenous children indicate dark and shameful chapter in the history of Canada, during which the Canadian government separated indigenous children from their families to send them to the boarding schools affiliated with Catholic churches or for adoption to white families in line with the prohibition of using their mother tongue.

Numerous reports of physical, emotional and sexual abuse of these children have been released and the available documents show that the students of these schools were exposed to the spread of measles, tuberculosis, influenza and other infectious diseases and many lost their lives. But it is clear that these chronically and intentionally underfunded institutions actually caused the high death rates among students. What is also indisputable, based on the government's own records, is that generations of federal government officials and politicians knew that the subpar conditions in the schools were



killing children and chose to do nothing.

According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the Indian Residential School system was an attempted "cultural genocide," but the escalating number of recovered unmarked graves points to something even darker. The internal conditions of the schools were unpleasant. Their buildings were poorly heated and unsanitary, and children were exposed to emotional, physical, and sexual danger.

According to experts, at least 3,200 indigenous

WORLD HEADLINES

Tens of thousands of Israelis continue anti-gov’t protests

Tens of thousands of Israelis have protested across the country against the right-wing government for the fourth consecutive week.

The latest rally was held on Saturday, with demonstrators carrying Israeli flags on Kaplan Street in Tel Aviv chanting “No to dictatorship” and “Democracy”.

As in the past weeks, the protest was directed primarily against the government's proposed changes that will weaken the judicial system.

According to the plans by Justice Minister Yariv Levin, a majority in parliament should be able to pass a law, even if it violates the Basic Law in the opinion of the Supreme Court.

Levin also wants to change the composition of the body that appoints judges. The far-reaching changes could also play into Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hands in his current corruption trial where he stands accused of fraud, breach of trust, and corruption.

Netanyahu accuses the Supreme Court of excessive interference in political decisions. Some experts have already warned of an end to democracy in the country if the plans are implemented.

NATO ready for clash with Russia – top official

NATO is prepared to fight Russia if a direct conflict erupts between the two, Rob Bauer, the chairman of the alliance's Military Committee, said on Saturday.

In an interview with Portuguese RTP TV, when asked whether the US-led military bloc is ready for a direct confrontation with Russia, Bauer unequivocally stated, “We are.”

The official noted that when the hostilities broke out in Ukraine in February 2022, NATO already had a number of battle groups along its eastern flank. During a summit in Madrid which took place in June 2022, the alliance's leaders decided to create four more battle groups in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria, Bauer said.

“I think that's an important message for the Russians, that our posture has changed, to show them that we are ready if they would have an idea to come to NATO.” He added that if there is any red line regarding relations between Moscow and the military bloc, “it is the Russians crossing the line of our territory in NATO.”

Bauer went on to say that for decades, many NATO nations thought they were the ones who decide when and where to deploy their forces, but the Ukraine conflict was a game-changer. Russia launched its military operation “at the moment of their choosing, so we have to be much more ready, we have no time to prepare, because it's up to them when they come,” the official stated.

He also described the Western shipments of modern arms to Ukraine as “not escalatory.” “The fact that your enemy has better weapons, it's not the problem of the enemy, that's your problem,” he said, adding that the West and Russia both face the need to ramp up efforts to manufacture weapons and equipment – and NATO countries need to have a debate on military production priorities. This means “talking about war time economy, but in peacetime,” which, he acknowledged, will be difficult.

Limited access to financial data related to hybrid war against Russia: Kremlin

The limited access to Russia's economic statistics is related to a hybrid war being waged against Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a commentary published by the Financial Times on Sunday.

“There is a hybrid war being waged against Russia, including economic warfare. So in those conditions it is completely natural that we are classifying this data,” he said, adding that “everyone who needs to know, everyone who is part of the economic policymaking process, has access to the whole range of data, statistics and so on.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin regularly receives reports from his top officials on the economy, Peskov noted. “Any assertions that he (President - TASS) receives distorted information are incorrect. He has all the information, he has economic cabinet meetings basically every week,” the spokesman stressed.

Last July the Russian president endorsed the law, which stipulates the peculiarities of regulating corporate relations, as well as a number of measures to regulate the financial market, the possibilities of reorganizing banks, and classifying data on the country's gold and foreign currency reserves.

UK PM Sunak fires Conservative Party chairman over tax scandal

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak bowed to pressure on Sunday by firing the Conservative Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi, who has faced criticism over his personal tax arrangements.

Sunak last week ordered his ethics adviser to investigate Zahawi following claims he had paid a penalty as part of a reported £4.8 million (\$5.96 million) settlement with tax officials. It was alleged that Zahawi did not declare the dispute with tax authorities.

Zahawi was appointed chancellor of the exchequer – finance minister – by former prime minister Boris Johnson in July last year. He remained in the Cabinet under Johnson's successor Liz Truss and her successor, Sunak, who made him party chairman.

In a letter to Zahawi, Sunak said that, after the investigation completed its work, “it is clear that there has been a serious breach of the Ministerial Code.”

“As a result, I have informed you of my decision to remove you from your position in His Majesty's Government.” Reports of Zahawi's multi-million-pound settlement with tax officials shocked Britons, many of whom are battling to survive amid the cost-of-living crisis.

the bodies of Canadian indigenous children were removed, caused tension in this country claiming human rights and a dispute between the Canadian government and the Vatican.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has urged Pope Francis to visit Canada to apologize to indigenous peoples for the Catholic church's treatment of aboriginal children in schools it ran there.

In a visit to Canada, Pope Francis apologized to Canada's Indigenous communities for the church's harmful legacy over residential schools. “I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the Church and of religious communities cooperated, not least through their indifference, in projects of cultural destruction and forced assimilation promoted by the governments of that time, which culminated in the system of residential schools.”

In general, the recent discovery of unmarked graves at boarding schools in Canada is like a nightmare for many Indigenous Americans and Canadians that has never been forgotten.

Tehran fair to boost synergy among tourism, handicraft sectors

TEHRAN – The Iranian capital is getting prepared to host a national tourism fair concurrent with a handicraft exhibit aimed at boosting synergy among the two consistent sectors.

The 36th National Handicrafts Exhibition and the 16th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition will be held simultaneously at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground from February 7 to 10, Mehr reported on Sunday.

It is a benchmark event in the tourism sector of the country as a meeting place for industry professionals and the premier trade show for destinations and destination markets. It turns the spotlight on new tourist segments, technological leadership in the management of tourism, and knowledge transfer tools.

It stages cultural evenings, B2B meetings, folk music performances, live workshops, 3D films of historical monuments and tourism destinations, and highlights of Persian

cuisines, to name a few.

The handicrafts sales exhibition brings together craftspeople and artisans from all over the country, showcasing arrays of personal ornamentation, woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, handwoven textile, calligraphy, traditional musical instrument, metalwork, and marquetry to name a few. Nomadic culinary arts, live workshops, and performances are among other themes for the event.

Iran has the most cities and towns registered with the World Crafts Council (WCC), followed by China with seven, Chile with four, and India with three, according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots, including 26 ones that have been placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

\$200m needed to restore historical mansions nationwide, tourism minister says

TEHRAN – Some 80 trillion rials (\$200 million) is needed to restore damaged historical mansions across the country, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami has said.

Historical mansions are supposed to be restored with a minimum budget of \$200 million, but due to the lack of funds, the only temporary solution is restoration with the help of local residents and owners, the minister said on Saturday, while visiting a mansion in the southern city of Fasa, Fars province.

Iran's Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places will also cooperate in restoration projects, he added.

He also paid a visit to the Fasa Culture Museum and noted that a museum like this can play an important role in preserving intangible heritage and passing on cultures

Iranian archaeologists to perform survey in Babylon

TEHRAN – Surveying and excavating the historical sites of Babylon in Iraq along with assessing the need for restoration is planned to be carried out by Iranian archaeologists, CHTN reported on Sunday.

As a part of a memorandum of understanding signed by the governor of the western Iranian province of Ilam Hassan Bahramnia and the director of the governmental Babel Antiques Organization Hussein Falih on Friday, the exploration of Babylon's ancient sites will be performed by archeological teams from Ilam province in the near future.

Further, Iraqi tourists are scheduled to visit tourist sites and recreational areas, as well as health tourism facilities in Ilam for Iraqi patients requiring treatment.

Ruled by Hammurabi, restored by Nebuchadrezzar, and conquered by Cyrus

Chub-zani, a local mourning ritual, made national heritage

TEHRAN – Chub-zani, which is a local mourning ritual, has recently been inscribed on Iran's National Cultural Heritage list, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Chub-zani is one of the rituals performed by the people of Dezful to commemorate the Muharram mourning season in public.

This ceremony involves reciting poems and pushing two sticks forward and backward. The traditional ritual is a symbol of the war scene, which is accompanied by drums and trumpets in front of Tekyehs, venues for

Saipa wheel manufacturer company intends to purchase and commissioning Aluminum alloy wheel production line in khoramshahr. Iran. the companies active in this scope are invited to refer to this link: <https://b2n.ir/q03655> to receive document(RFP) and send their proposals to commercial2@kswco.com by February 6th. If you have question please contact Mr.Eftekharian : email:commercial1@kswco.com

In Hamedan, ancient monuments and gigantic in-cave lake await

From Page 1 ► Hamedan, also known as Ecbatana in classical times, was once one of the most important cities in the ancient world. A pitiful few artifacts from antiquity still exist, but significant areas of the city center are dedicated to excavations, and there are a few historical oddities scattered about.

Here is a selection of travel attractions in the ancient city:

Ganjnameh

Ganjnameh is a must-see location for history and culture enthusiasts. Ganjnameh, which translates to "Treasure Epistle," contains collections of cuneiform inscriptions in three languages: ancient Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian.

The inscriptions, which date to the reigns of the Achaemenid Kings Darius I (521-485 BC) and Xerxes I (485-65 BC), were first meticulously examined by Eugene Flandin, a French painter and archaeologist, along with Pascal Coste.

The right inscription, belonging to Xerxes I, reads: "The Great God [is] Ahuramazda, greatest of all the gods, who created the earth and the sky and the people; who made Xerxes king, and outstanding king as an outstanding ruler among innumerable rulers; I [am] the great king Xerxes, king of kings, king of lands with numerous inhabitants, king of this vast kingdom with far-away territories, son of the Achaemenid monarch Darius."

Wintertime ice climbing is very popular at a nearby waterfall that is nine meters high. The Alvand summit, on the other hand, is reachable on a single day during the summer. The site's laid-back atmosphere makes it possible to go hiking on Mount Alvand's side, and it's only a short drive from the city.

Gonbad-e Alavian

A prominent example of the Persian-Islamic style of architecture at the time is the Gonbad-e Alavian ("Alavian Dome") from the 12th century. In his travelogue "The Road to Oxianna," British travel writer Robert Byron



People visit the mausoleum of Bu-Ali Sina (Avicenna) in Hamedan, west-central Iran.

describes the whirling floral stucco ornamentation added to the brick tower during the Ilkhanid Mongol era that has since become a famous feature of the structure.

Two elder members of the Alavian family are buried in its tiny cellar. Six arched rooms make up the interior space. In the middle are turquoise brick-covered, cube-shaped graves.

Above the building's entrance is a rectangular plaque decorated with flower and stucco honeycomb patterns. This plaque's outer frame is covered in stucco reliefs of Quranic verses written in the Kufic calligraphy style.

Masjed-e Jameh

One of the oldest mosques in Hamadan is Masjed-e Jameh, also known as the Friday Mosque. Three of the mosque's original four porches still exist. The mosque is rectangular. This building has two prayer rooms for nighttime prayers, a brick dome and a spacious, lovely courtyard with a huge pool in the middle.

The south iwan, which is a disused entrance, leads into a hall over which there's an impressively large brick dome. Four of the mosque's six minarets continue the pattern of blue tile work that

adorns the north iwan.

Tepe Hegmataneh

Tepe Hegmataneh, which is equivalent to the ancient city of Ecbatana, has a circumference of 1.4 kilometers and a surface area of roughly 40 hectares. In reality, the modern city of Hamedan is located on the site of Ecbatana.

Although the view of the distant mountains from the archaeological hill is pleasingly rewarding, particularly in the late afternoon, what lies below is an ancient Median and Achaemenid city. Over the past century, only a few small sections have been excavated, with the 1990s seeing the most activity. Nearby are two Armenian churches that are now a part of Hamadan University, as well as a sophisticated museum.

By the French Assyriologist Charles Fossey, Ecbatana was first discovered during an excavation in 1913. Since the majority of the ancient sites are covered by the modern town, excavations have been relatively few. Hagmataneh Hill's limited excavations in 2006 yielded no artifacts older than the Parthian period (247 BC–224 CE), but this does not rule out the possibility of older archaeological layers being present elsewhere

Nomadic settlement discovered near hydraulic dam

TEHRAN – A seasonal settlement of nomadic tribes has been discovered on an ancient site at the basin of the newly constructed Chamshir Dam in southwest Iran, an archaeologist has said.

There are stone architectural structures with a right-angled plan in this area, which belong to a seasonal settlement and are related to nomad people, ILNA quoted Reza Heidari as saying on Sunday.

The architectural spaces also contain thermal structures that have been documented in some parts, indicating the use of fire for daily tasks and heating, he added.

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

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

The area includes works and settlements



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

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

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

Last month, another archaeologist, Saeid Amir-Hajilu, gave notice that a large area of

a Sassanid-Islamic site would be completely submerged as a result of the water release behind the dam. There is a high potential for answering ambiguous archeological questions of Iran about nomads from different periods in the area surrounding Chamshir Dam, he said.

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

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

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. Formerly known as Persia, the country's name mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis.

Foundations of two giant structures unearthed near Persepolis



primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions and festivals of the kings and their empire. It was burnt

by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

The site is marked by a large terrace with its east side abutting the Kuh-e Rahmat ("Mount of Mercy"). The other three sides are formed by a retaining wall, varying in height with the slope of the ground from 13 to 41 feet (4 to 12 meters); on the west side, a magnificent double stair in two flights of 111 short stone steps leads to the top. On the terrace are the ruins of several colossal buildings, all constructed of a dark gray stone (often polished to a marble-like surface) from the adjacent mountain.

TEHRAN – The 2023 ranking of the Times Institute of Higher Education has placed a number of Iranian universities on its top institutes in terms of education.

Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences comes first among the Iranian universities with a rank in the range of 351–400.

Islamic Azad University, Naja-fabad Branch, comes next with a rank in the range of 501–600.

Azərbaycan Şahid Madani University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, University of Kashan, University of Kurdistan, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, University of Tabriz, and The University of Tehran are in the range of 601–800.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 include 1,799 universities across 104 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

This year's ranking analyzed over 121 million citations across more than 15.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 40,000 scholars globally. Overall, we collected over 680,000 data points from more than 2,500 institutions that submitted data.

The University of Oxford tops the ranking for the seventh consecutive year. Harvard University remains in second place, but the University of Cambridge jumps from joint fifth last year to joint third.

Overall ranking

There are 65 universities from Iran in the 2023 ranking of the Times Institute of Higher Education.

'Houses of environment' promoting cooperation between NGOs, volunteers

From page 1 ► Under the plan, a house in each province is considered as a gathering place for environmental activists in different age groups, to be trained by related organizations, he explained, adding that students are prioritized and are the most important age group in education.

There is no capital more precious than the environment so NGOs should be supported, considering their help to the governments to support the natural and valuable resources of the country, he highlighted.

President Ebrahim Raisi has highlighted the importance of environmental protection, emphasizing that the preservation of the environment is prior to every development. Environmental protection will lead to power, security, investment, and production growth in the country, he said.

Both people and NGOs have an effective role to play in the protection of the environment, and they should be given chance to play their role, he added.

The need to use new technologies and the ability of knowledge-based companies in the field of environment, solving issues and problems related to legal proceedings, attention to domestic and international diplomacy in the field of environment, attention to water transfer in the country from one region to another, attention to the dangers of trawling, attention to environmental water rights and also attention to land management were among the topics that were discussed in this specialized meeting.

Environmental policies

On November 17, 2015, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, announced the general policies on the environment, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, harmonious,



Iranian universities on THE list for education

tute of Higher Education, which indicates a 10 percent increase compared to 58 universities ranked last year.

Being sixth among countries with more than 50 representatives is one of the important features of this ranking for Iran.

According to this report, "Golestan Medical Sciences", "Kurdistan Medical Sciences", and "Mazandaran Medical Sciences" universities are in first place nationally and 351–400 in the world.

The position of two Iranian universities is also defined as "reporter". Institutions whose world ranking is "reporter" are those that have provided their data to "Times Higher Education Institute", but did not meet the minimum required to obtain rank.

After Japan, China and India, Iran was the fourth Asian country having the highest number of universities included in the 2023 edition.

In total, 1799 institutions from 104 different countries of the world are listed. In the Middle East, Turkey and Iran have the largest share. Meanwhile, Asia has the most representatives in this ranking with 669 universities.

In last year's ranking, 58 institutions from Iran were among the top institutions in the world. Examining the annual trend of the presence of Iranian universities has shown a continuous increase from one university in the 2012 edition to 65 universities in the 2023 edition.

However, it should be noted that the number of "Times Institute of Higher Education" top institutions has also increased year by year. For example, in the 2022 edition, 1,662 universities from different countries were ranked.

Three Iranian universities are among a total of 550 institutes worldwide listed in the Graduate Employ-

ability Rankings 2022.

The QS World University Rankings portfolio, inaugurated in 2004, has grown to become the world's most popular source of comparative data about university performance.

In 2022, the Sharif University of Technology and the University of Tehran, with a rank in the range of 301–500, were listed among the top 500 universities in the world for the first time in this field, and the Amirkabir University of Technology was also ranked in the +501 category.

International students

The number of foreign students will double in the Iranian universities by the next three years, Hashem Dashedpour, the Iranian deputy science minister has said.

Universities should increase their interactions and scientific exchanges in order to attract international students and accelerate internationalization in the region and the world, he highlighted.

Iranian universities achieved good ranks at the global level and based on the evaluations of the world's most prestigious institutions so that there is the capacity to attract international students, he said.

He mentioned holding the cultural and sports Olympiad for international students as a way to make them more aware of Iran's capabilities, ISNA reported.

By the next three years, the number of foreign students from 120 countries will increase by two times in the universities of the country, he predicted.

Some 108,000 students from 117 countries have enrolled in Iranian universities for the current academic year (started September 23), Mohammad Mohammadi Masoudi, an official with the Ministry of Science, has said.



In December 2022, Rouhollah Naqdipour, the secretary of the strategic council of the Department of Environment, announced that a roadmap for environmental protection has been developed.

The document presents 13 national macro strategies and 46 cross-sectoral measures for five main environmental challenges, he said, IRNA reported.

The 7-chapter book also suggests reforms for systematic purposeful solutions and policies to solve environmental issues including the water crisis, he explained.

He listed the five major environmental challenges of the country as the imbalance between water resources and consumption leading to drought, soil erosion, waste and sand and dust storms, air pollution in metropolitan areas, destruction of biodiversity and genetic resources, and imbalance between the environment and industrial and civil development.

Currently, 30 national parks, 170 protected areas, 45 wildlife refuges, and 37 national natural monuments, measuring about 19 million hectares in the area are in the country.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19: Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

The back-to-school ceremony is officially inaugurated by the president each year, as he rings the bells in a symbolic gesture at a chosen school.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival. More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است.

او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه‌های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.

Strong quake in northwest kills 3, injures hundreds

From page 1 ► The interior minister, the head of the red crescent society, and some other officials went to the region to monitor rescue efforts.

On January 19, an earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale occurred in the region.

The Energy Ministry is trying to connect the electricity that has been cut in some areas.

People are spending the night outdoors or in their cars in the cold winter. More than 10 aftershocks struck the quake-hit areas.

According to ISNA, 87 villages are also affected by the quake.

The strong tremor has been felt in surrounding provinces as well.

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

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

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

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

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

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 54

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

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

Due to the suitable vegetation cover, it is one of the important wildlife refuges and also this wetland includes those kinds of plants which are nutrient for migrant birds. The richness of this wetland is unique in terms of some fish species such as Perca fluviatilis and Tinca tinca.

Farmers have been trained in the field of organic fertilizer and recognizing its best effectiveness time and Water spin to reduce effluents and nutrients within the site. In addition, incentives such as subsidies for fertilizers have been removed.

Recreational and tourism activities are not within the site and also these activities are conducted under the guidance of environment guards.

The tourists who visit within the sites are students who wants know the environment and the values of wetland, master students who are working on their thesis and also NGOs.

Bujagh National Park

Overview

Bujagh National Park is a broad, shallow bay of the Caspian Sea and associated delta wetlands at the mouth of the Sefid Rud River.

With a variety of marine, coastal and freshwater and brackish inland wetland types, the Site is important as a spawning and nursery ground for fish, and as a breeding, staging and wintering area for waterfowl including Dalmatian Pelican (Pelecanus crispus).

The Site regularly supports at least 1% of the population of three species in the region: teal (Anas crecca), wigeon (Anas penelope) and gadwall (Anas strepera).

The Site is used for recreational and commercial fishing including aquaculture, livestock grazing, reed cutting, hunting, rice farming and recreation and tourism.

Bujagh National Park is an Important Bird Area and is considered a potential site for the reintroduction of the Siberian crane.

The original Ramsar Site (designated in 1975) was significantly enlarged from the original area of around 500 hectares to the current area of over 3,400 ha.

Summary

Bujagh National Park is located on the Caspian Lowlands and on the delta of the Sefid Rood River.

This deltaic system is the largest delta on the south Caspian region with an area of 3434.26 (ha). Bandar Kiashtahr Lagoon, which is one of the oldest lagoons in Gilan province, is located within this national park.

Historically fishing has been the common activity in the area. There are some villages surrounding the national park and some of the farmlands lie within the park.

Almost the entire northern part of this area and parts of the northwest and northeast are surrounded by the Caspian Sea; the area of water body is 54.5 hectares, which 27.25 hectares of it is covered with the vegetation.

The average depth of the wetland is 75 centimetres. The most important source of water supply for this wetland is precipitation.

Bandar Kiashtahr Lagoon is a shallow sea bay which linked the freshwater and brackish marshes and the nearby riverine marshes at the mouth of the Sefid Rood in the south-west Caspian.

There are also open grassy areas and dunes near the mouth of the river. The site is important because of the wide variety of waterfowl.

It has one of the richest biodiversity in terms of birds, plants and fish, the diversity of habitats in this area has led to a diverse collection of birds to be attracted to the area, so far, 236 species have been observed in this area, including around 30,000 birds in different seasons of the year, also 248 native plant species, a total of 5 species of reptiles and 2 species of bivalves have been identified in the region.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



A pleasant weekend at Darband

People are riding cable cars at Darband, an area in the north of Tehran with a pleasant climate, where many seek refuge from the city's hustle and bustle, especially on weekends.

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JANUARY 30, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:48 Dawn: 5:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:06 (tomorrow)

Adab in Iran

Part 7

They regard Sha'bi as stupid, Ebn Jobayr as ignorant, and Nakha'i as unimportant. At the end of every gathering, they cite Ardashir's sayings on administration and Anushiravan's on statecraft as proof of every point.

None of these dabirs has bothered to learn the Koran and study exegesis, theology, and precedent, or if they have bothered, they show no interest.

A few pages further on, Jahez makes very uncomplimentary remarks about Ebn al-Moqaffa', Yunos ibn Abi Farwa, Ebrahim ibn Esmail ibn Abi Da'ud, and several other dabirs, describing them as zendiqs (Manichaeans), Zoroastrians, and Shu'ubites.

In Tabari's account of the trial of Afshin Haydar, it is stated that Mohammad ibn Abd al-Malek asked Afshin about the book in his possession dealing with unbelief and ornamented with gold, jewels, and brocade.

Afshin answered that he had inherited it from his father, and that it was about the adab and ayin of the Iranians.

As for its unbelief, he consulted only what it had to say about adab and paid no heed to the rest. It was ornamented when it came into his possession, and he saw no need to remove its ornaments.

He left it in the same state as the book of Kalila wa Demna and the book of Mazdak which Abd al-Malek had in his house. He did not think that this contravened Islam.

In the 10th century, the cultural strength and Iranianism of the Shu'ubites and the Islamic faith and nationalism of the Arabs constituted two more or less balanced forces, neither capable of displacing the other.

On the one hand, thanks to the weakening of the Baghdad caliphate and the rise of the Iranian local dynasties, particularly the Samanids, the Iranian cultural resistance successfully implanted the New Persian language, which with the emergence of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh grew into a large and robust tree.

On the other hand, this cultural victory had the effect of eliminating Shu'ubism from the sphere of the Arabic language and confining it to that of Persian, and thus of fragmenting the movement's strength.

The period of conflict between the two cultures gave way to a period of symbiosis and synthesis.

In other words, the stagnation of the Shu'ubite movement from the 11th century onward was caused mainly by the preceding cultural victory of the Iranians.

When the movement had more or less achieved its goal with the composition of the Shahnameh and the consolidation of Persian, there was no longer any need for continuance of its activity, or at least not so great a need as in the past.

In the Persian sphere, the Shahnameh from the 11th century onward had a profound influence on the Iranians.

Although the political power in Iran was mostly in the hands of the Turks, whose Islamic zeal is beyond question, the Persian language and the Shahnameh had taken such deep root that the Turks themselves

admired and promoted the literature and culture of the Iranians.

In all the Persian works in the field of adab written after the 11th century, two influences can be discerned, one from the synthesized Islamic adab, described above, and the other from the purely Iranian adab represented in Persian principally by the Shahnameh.

This double influence is also true of Sufi writings in verse and prose, though Sufism, as a third and independent trend, soon began to exert a decisive influence of its own on adab.

Sa'di's Bustan, an outstanding example of Persian adab in both its ethical and literary sense, represents a world view which is rooted in Iranian moral concepts, Islamic doctrine, and mystical teachings.

Sources: The source material on Iranian adab can be classified by periods as follows: (1) pre-Sassanid, (2) Sassanid to 10th century, (3) 11th century and thereafter.

Material on the first period comes in the Avesta and Middle Iranian texts, but a good deal of pertinent data can be gleaned from the Shahnameh and a number of Arabic and Persian works, particularly Tabari's history.

Also important are the accounts left by classical writers, among which Xenophon's Cyropaedia is most important.

Apart from some reports by Byzantine and Armenian writers, the main source material on the second period comes in indigenous writings in the Pahlavi, Persian, and Arabic languages.

The surviving Pahlavi texts on adab are generally either parts of religious literature or are religiously oriented.

The most important of these latter are the books of counsel (pand-namag or handarz-namag).

The only extant non-religious Pahlavi book on adab is the short treatise on the education of the Sassanid nobility entitled Xusraw ud ridak, which is uniquely valuable for its information on the categories of adab.

This book remained in high repute long into the Islamic period, and Ta'alebi incorporated a summary of its contents in his Arabic Ghorar.

During the early Islamic centuries, numerous Pahlavi books were reproduced in Arabic translations, which like the originals are nearly all lost; but information of their existence has come down to us in surviving Arabic works, above all the Fehrest of Ebn al-Nadim.

The source materials on the third period may be divided into two groups: Those which really belong to the second period because they have little or no Islamic coloring, and those with a stronger Islamic coloring, though of course no clear line of distinction can be drawn.

In general, themes belonging to adab are scattered through the Persian narrative and didactic literature of every genre, such as epics, ethical and mystical discourses, or romances, and they permeate the "mirrors for princes" such as the Qabus-nama, and collections of fables. See also Andarz, Dabiri, Ethics, Literature, Payman.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded.

Iranian photojournalist Mehdi Bolurian on Andrei Stenin Press Photo Contest jury

From Page 1 ► The jury also comprises Lan Hongguang, Deputy Director of the Photography Department at China's Xinhua News Agency; Sefa Karacan, a senior photojournalist at Turkey's Anadolu Agency; Juan Canete, an independent photographer from Argentina; and Pavel Volkov, a photojournalist at Russia's Izvestia Multimedia Information Center.

The contest is organized by Rossiya Segodnya, a media group owned and operated by the Russian government, under the patronage of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

It aims to support young photographers and draw public attention to the challenges of photojournalism today. It is a platform for young photographers – talented and sensitive individuals open to all things new.

The 2023 contest will showcase four categories of Top News, Sports, My Planet and Portrait: A Hero of Our Time.

In the Top News section, the photos of major political and social events will compete.

The Sports section covers



Iranian photojournalist Mehdi Bolurian in an undated photo.

pictures of captured moments in sports, including victories of athletes and dramatic losses, and daily sports training.

In the My Planet category, images depicting the world's timeless beauty and harmony and uniting scenes from everyday life, life in big cities and small towns, nature pictures and ethnographic

and religious holiday photos will compete.

The Portrait: A Hero of Our Time category involves individual or group portraits of people. Photos can be documentary and posed.

The winners will be announced on August 4 and they will receive their prizes during the awards

ceremony in September. The exact date will be announced later by the organizers.

The Iranian photographers Keyvan Jafari, Ali Sharifzadeh, Shaqayeq Shayankhah and Ebrahim Alipur won prizes in different categories of the 2022 Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest.

Tehran museum reinstalls Calder's "Orange Fish" after renovation



American sculptor Alexander Calder's "The Orange Fish" is seen reinstalled at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on January 28, 2023. (TMCA)

TEHRAN – The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) has reinstalled American sculptor Alexander Calder's "The Orange Fish" nearly five years after it was removed to allow the museum to undergo a renovation.

The mobile 447X190-centimeter sculpture was suspended from the ceiling in the exact location in a TMCA hall where it had been installed previously

when the museum was inaugurated in 1977.

The TMCA renovation project was initiated in May 2018.

It reopened provisionally on January 28, 2021, with an exhibition displaying works by Western photographers and conceptual artists, including Dennis Oppenheim, Gordon Matta-Clark, Bernd and Hilla Becher, and Edward Ruscha.

An exhibition of artworks by American artist Andy Warhol and a showcase reviewing image geometry in Persian painting reopened in the museum permanently on June 8.

The museum removed "The Orange Fish" in 2004 to loan the precious artwork for the exhibition "Joan Miro, Alexander Calder" held in May at the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, Switzerland.

The artwork was restored before by the Swiss expert Marcus Gras under the supervision of the foundation to be showcased at the exhibition. "The Orange Fish" returned home in October 2004.

In its courtyard, the museum also displays

Calder's "Prickly Pear" produced of sheet metal, bolts, and paint in 1964.

The TMCA is home to works by many august artists of the West, including Claude Monet, Francis Bacon, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, and notable in the world for its historical narration of art with the largest collection of Western art that exists in the East.

Calder, who passed away in 1976, is best known for his creation of mobile sculpture and is generally regarded as one of the 20th century's most innovative and witty artists.

Calder's mobiles – so named by French Dada artist Marcel Duchamp – are suspended, elegantly balanced arrangements of abstract, organic forms.

The stables – so named by French avant-garde sculptor Hans Arp – are stationary abstract forms that frequently convey a humorous suggestion of animal shapes.

Although Calder's stone, wood and bronze sculptures, his drawings, his later paintings and almost exclusively gouaches are important, his reputation rests primarily upon his mobiles and stables.

"The Other Einstein" introduced to Persian readers

TEHRAN – "The Other Einstein" by American novelist Marie Benedict has been published by Saless in Persian.

Translated by Azadeh Masunia, the novel was originally published in 2016.

It is a vivid and mesmerizing novel about the extraordinary woman who married and worked with one of the greatest scientists in history, written by New York Times bestselling author Benedict.

In the tradition of "The Paris Wife" and "Mrs. Poe", "The Other Einstein" offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow.

It is the story of Einstein's wife, a



Front cover of the Persian edition of Marie Benedict's novel "The Other Einstein".

brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special

theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight.

Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls.

Most twenty-year-olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage.

And then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might

not be room for more than one genius in a marriage.

Benedict is a lawyer with more than ten years of experience as a commercial litigator at two of the country's premier law firms.

While practicing as an NYC lawyer, Marie dreamed of a fantastical job unearthing the hidden historical stories of women, and finally found it when she tried her hand at writing.

She embarked on a new, thematically connected series of historical fiction excavating the stories of important, complex and fascinating women from the past with "The Other Einstein".

The value of true narratives

and procedure took so long.

*** What led you to decide to create tales about the pilgrimage of Arbæen and Karbala?**

Regarding the books of Arbæen, I should note that, by the grace of God, before these books were published, I had traveled to Karbala for the Arbæen on one or two occasions. Although on these occasions, the thought of writing a travelogue usually crosses one's mind, I wasn't interested in doing so.

Later, with one of my friends who is also a writer, the idea of writing short stories from the narratives of pilgrims to Karbala came to our mind.

Another problem was that the Wahhabi media at the time misrepresented a number of these motives, pretending that people were traveling for free food and that the Arbæen pilgrimage was only some sort of entertainment!

We believed that it was important to discuss people's motivations and let them express their beliefs so that they would be remembered in the future and people would know that these people did not travel to Karbala for the Arbæen pilgrimage due to just



entertainment or a desire for a free dinner.

We wanted to show how tough it is for people from all over the world to travel to Karbala at this time of year just to show their love for Imam Hussain.