

Interview

INSTEX failure indicative of European non-compliance with JCPOA

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has commented on the quiet shutdown of a European mechanism that was devised to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions on Iran. ► **Page 3**

Report

Who bombed Russia’s gas pipelines?

As warring sides trade blame over the Nord Stream blasts, an award-winning journalist makes a bombshell revelation.

In September, a series of strong explosions caused significant damage to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines that run under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany and supplied cheap gas to mainland Europe.

Both pipelines are owned by Russia’s energy giant Gazprom and the explosions were quickly revealed to have been a deliberate act of sabotage but no culprit had been identified.

Western leaders were quite quick to blame Russia, claiming that Moscow wanted to further disrupt the flow of energy to Europe ahead of winter so that NATO military and financial support for Ukraine slows down.

The problem was that no Western government had any evidence to back up the claim. ► **Page 5**

Op-ed

The cognitive war against Iran and geopolitical shift

By Professor Dina Yulianti

It was freezing when I arrived in Tehran in December last year. I came to attend the third edition of the Tehran Dialogue Forum. The pollution of Tehran made the morning sun feel very gloomy, but the Christmas tree in the hotel lobby with colorful decorations brought back the mood.

We then followed a series of dialogue events, and one of the speakers, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, mentioned a term. According to him, many foreign media are involved in the war against Iran by interfering with public opinion, called cognitive warfare.

I feel very related to what Kharrazi said. Some people are worried about me going to Iran because they think Iran is full of chaos and unrest. And indeed, that is what the media in Indonesia disseminate because they only repeat the news from Western media. I found the situation in Tehran and ► **Page 5**

Interview

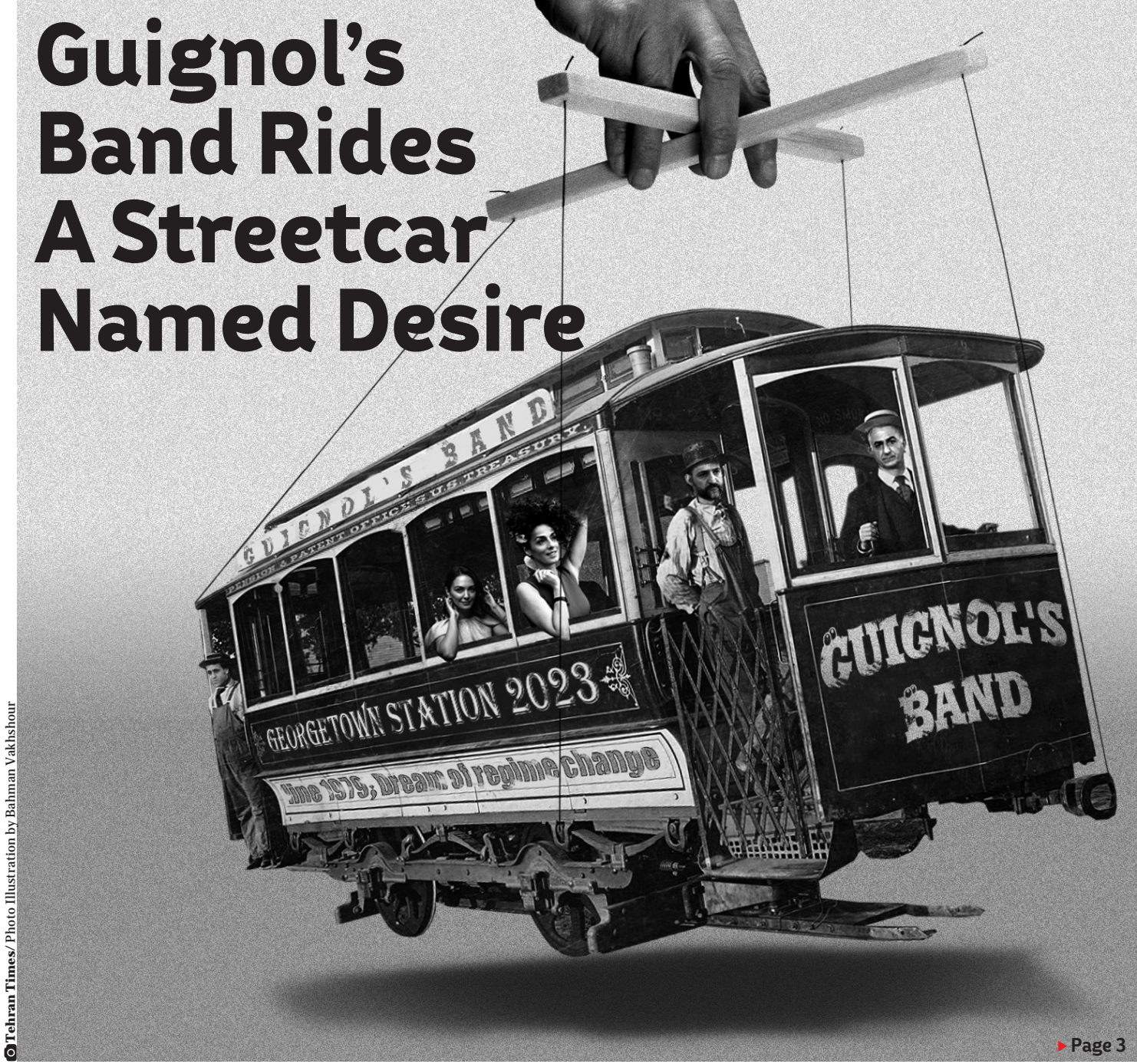
Head of hockey federation Ghadimi asks more support

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Bahram Ghadimi, president of Iran Hockey Federation, has asked the Ministry of Sport and Youth to support hockey more than before.

Iranian men’s team took the bronze medal in the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup South Africa 2023.

The team led by Rajab Nourani beat the U.S. in the bronze medal match on Saturday. The match ended 4-4 in regular time but Iran won the game 3-2 on penalties. ► **Page 3**



► **Page 3**

South Azadegan oilfield development accelerated

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- South Azadegan oilfield is located 80 kilometers west of Ahvaz (the capital city of Iran’s southwestern Khuzestan province), near the Iraqi border.

The oil reserves in this field are estimated to be around 25.34 billion barrels, and the recoverable oil is estimated to be around 1.7 billion barrels, taking into account the recovery factor of 6.6 percent.

The development process of the South Azadegan oilfield is done in the form of two development phases, that according to the targeting, the production in this field is supposed to reach 600,000 barrels per day.

South Azadegan is one of the five major oilfields Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran’s Karoun region, known as West Karoun fields.

West Karoun holds great importance for the country’s oil industry since according to the latest studies, its in-situ deposit is estimated to be 67 billion barrels containing both light and heavy crude oils, and therefore it could have a big impact on Iran’s oil output increases in the future. ► **Page 4**



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Tehran clad in white

Like many other areas in Iran which are covered with heavy snow, winter snowfall has brought a beautiful white look to the capital Tehran. The snow-covered trees have added to the city’s natural and serene beauty.

Since snowfall has become rare in Iran due to global warming, the people, especially children, become highly delighted when they see snow is falling. This year, citizens, especially children, who were looking at snow-covered mountains in northern Tehran voraciously are now feeling it in their neighborhoods.

Intricate details: feast your eyes on Persian tilework

One of the most common and significant decorative elements in Persian architecture is tilework. There is a wide variety of mosques, castles, mansions, churches, and halls, to name a few that have benefited from the expertise over time.

The glazed bricks that adorn the walls of Tchogha Zanbil, an ancient Elamite temple complex close to Susa, in Khuzistan, one of Persia’s oldest examples of this technique, date to the 13th century BC.

The same method was applied during the Achaemenid era in the UNESCO-designated palaces of Susa and Persepolis, and a portion of it can be seen in two friezes known as the Lions and Archer’s frieze.

Evidence suggests that Persian tile work reached its full potential during the Islamic period, and artists began exploring various methods and designs to elevate this art to its apogee.

Until the fifth century AH, the buildings were decorated with murals, but since the time of the Seljuk rule, widespread use of tile has become widespread. ► **Page 6**

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Tehran Papers

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

America is not looking for a new JCPOA

Arman-e- Melli writes: These days, some are talking about the end of JCPOA, and the JCPOA may not be a good solution for Iran and the West, but it is a bitter medicine that must be taken. ► **Page 2**

Iranian president due in China

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will undertake an official three-day visit to China starting on Tuesday, February 14.

Hua Chunying, a spokesperson for China’s foreign ministry, announced on Sunday that the Iranian president will visit China upon a formal invitation by his Chinese counterpart.

“President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ebrahim Raisi will conduct a state visit to China from February 14 to 16 at the request of President Xi Jinping,” she stated.

In a message on October 24, 2022, Raisi congratulated Xi for being elected as the head of the Communist Party for a third term.

In his message, Raisi said the materialization of the objectives of “strategic partnership” between Tehran and Beijing will serve as an example for extensive ties based on mutual respect.

The Iranian president also said that collaboration between China and Iran within the framework of multilateral institutions and organizations will benefit both countries’ interests and contribute to maintaining global peace and stability.

Iranian, Iraqi FM’s speak over phone

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein held phone talks late on Saturday, reviewing the latest situation in bilateral ties and exchanging views on regional and international issues.

The sanctions-related actions were also discussed in consultation between the two parties.

The top Iraqi diplomat also invited Amir Abdollahian to visit Baghdad. ► **Page 2**

Wartime drama on Abadan’s nostalgic theater named best at Fajr filmfest

TEHRAN – “Metropol Cinema”, a drama on a nostalgic theater in wartime Abadan, has won the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 41st Fajr International Film Festival.

Produced by Hamed Hosseini, the film tells the story of a group of people who struggle to keep alive the Metropol Cinema in Abadan, while the southwestern Iranian city is under siege by Iraqi forces in the early 1980s. ► **Page 8**

TEHRAN PAPERS

America is not looking for a new JCPOA

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

from page 1 ► The Zionist regime is one of the JCPOA's enemies, but Tel Aviv is an actor outside the JCPOA's playing ground. The two sides of the JCPOA are negotiating on the football field, but the Zionists are playing outside the stadium.

This shows that Westerners are looking to revive the JCPOA and not thinking of a new JCPOA with a different nature.

The Americans have completely withdrawn from playing a middle role in West Asia. The U.S. is no longer a stabilizing actor in the region, and it also is no longer looking for a new challenge in West Asia. America seeks to maintain differences and imbalances in West Asia, which means that it is not able to resolve any problem.

America is thinking of solving bigger issues and it needs to rest assured of West Asia. And America will have no direct role if a new situation emerges in the Middle East.

IRAN: Double punishment for Zionists

In an article, the Iran newspaper refers to the recent sabotage by the Zionist regime in the industrial centers of Isfahan and writes: As the Ministry of Intelligence and the Revolutionary Guards have announced, the main perpetrators of the failed operation have been arrested.

The daily cites the minister of intelligence as saying: The response to the sabotage was given by the resistance fighters in the occupied territories, but it was clear from the very beginning that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not leave this action unanswered, even though the sabotage was unsuccessful and clumsy.

Iran's will to retaliate prompted the U.S. to immediately announce that it was not involved in the sabotage, but some former officials of the Zionist regime implicitly confirmed the role of Tel Aviv in the sabotage.

The Zionists were afraid of Iran's reaction as an Iranian official in an interview with Al-Jazeera said: "The Zionist regime will receive its response."

A revenge has now been taken inside occupied Palestine, according to the statement of the Ministry of Intelligence and the IRGC, but Zionists should expect "double punishment".

Jomhoori-e-Eslami: Syrian earthquake and American hypocrisy

Jomhoori-e-Eslami refers to America's hypocritical policies towards Syria after the earthquake and writes: After the quake-stricken people of northern Syria remained under the rubble for four days due to the cruel U.S. sanctions, the U.S. government announced that it will temporarily lift the sanctions for 180 days.

America's 96-hour delay in lifting the

sanctions resulted in a crime in which several thousand people lost their lives. Besides, after the permission is issued, it will take a lot of time for the rescue teams to start their operations.

The U.S. has announced only 180 days exemption, which is a very short period of time for the operation.

The next point is that America has sanctioned Syria for years, but now it claims to provide aid.

This double standard policy has disgraced the West, but alas, the oppressed nations do not unite to end the great historical hypocrisy of the colonial powers.

Javan: Revolution against riot

In an article the Javan newspaper writes that "Bahman 22 (February 11)" rallies were actually "Revolution against riots".

Referring to the recent unrest in the country, Javan considers the February 11 demonstrations as a response to the riots in the country.

The enemies had prepared a large-scale hybrid war against the Islamic system, and the country was involved in the most complicated and chaotic turmoil for several months, the newspaper wrote.

They had waged their own propaganda war. They wanted to create ambiguities in the minds of the people regarding the continuation of the Islamic Revolution and then plan the overthrow of the political system, but the nationwide rallies on the 22nd of Bahman were a response to the enemies who "do not know Iranians".

Khorasan: Earthquake, West, and double standards

In an article, the Khorasan newspaper also mentions the U.S. double standard policies towards the earthquake victims of Syria and writes: America does not allow any country to help the earthquake victims in Syria because Syria is under Washington's sanctions. Only a few countries like Iran, Russia, and Algeria are providing aid to the people regardless of the Western sanctions.

America is trying to continue to put pressure on the legitimate Syrian government and politicize the earthquake.

The news of the earthquake in Turkey are given much more coverage by global media than the Syrian ones. This approach by media is in line with the inhumane policy of the Western countries.

Putting in a nutshell, what the West, especially the United States, is doing to the quake-stricken Syria today is an example of the double standards toward human rights and exploitation of human disasters in line with the interests of the United States.

Speaker praises 'epic presence' in rallies celebrating Islamic Revolution victory



TEHRAN- In a message on the statewide gatherings conducted on Saturday to mark the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's triumph, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf praised the Iranian people for thwarting attempts to undermine national cohesion.

With reference to the enormous turnout at the demonstrations, Qalibaf extended his "sincere appreciation" to the Iranian people, noting that "the scheme to break the unity of the nation was crushed by the wisdom of the people

themselves."

"Iranian authorities should remind themselves that the epic presence of people is not for them, but it strives to safeguard national unity, preserve independence and guarantee the security and tranquility of Iran," the parliament speaker pointed out.

Qalibaf emphasized that the Iranian people will not permit "ill-wishers of Iran and the Islamic Revolution" to undermine their national honor and integrity.

Reportedly, more than 20 millions took part in the rallies nationwide.

Addressing marchers in Azadi Square, President Raisi said the rallies are the manifestation of national unity, solidarity, integrity, epic and the involvement of people in every aspect of the country.

Armed Forces chief Major General Mohammad Bagheri also said on Sunday that the massive rallies thwarted "evil schemes" against Iran.

Messages between Iran and U.S. are conveyed by Europeans and non-Europeans: diplomat

TEHRAN- Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, has emphasized that messages are still being exchanged between the negotiation teams party to the 2015 nuclear agreement as part of the ongoing discussions to revitalize the deal.

In an interview with Lebanon's al-Manar TV, Bagheri Kani stated though the pace of the negotiations has changed, the P4+1 group—Britain, France, Russia, China, plus Germany—and Iran have been continuing consultations by exchanging messages.

The talks to revive the nuclear deal – JCPOA– started in April 2021 but they came to a standstill as the U.S. refuses to give promises to observe Iran's red lines.

When asked about the exchange of messages between Iran and Western nations, especially the U.S., he said since Tehran and Washington don't have any direct conversations, messages are being conveyed through intermediaries like Europeans or non-European countries.

Bagheri went on to say that after U.S. President Joe Biden commented on the death of the JCPOA, some American officials were interviewed about the talks,



and they said the talks are still going on in the form of exchanging messages.

Lifting sanctions and giving assurances for economic advantages from a resurrection of the JCPOA are demands that Tehran considers as red lines, the chief negotiator remarked.

And the anti-Iran sanctions are among the fundamental concerns that must be addressed as well, he added.

The nuclear negotiations are

about easing anti-Iran economic sanctions in accordance with the 2015 deal, he said, adding that the Islamic Republic has shown willingness to help conclude the negotiations by renewing the JCPOA if the other parties respect Tehran's red lines and interests.

The diplomat also made reference to the fact that President Ebrahim Raisi's government works to strengthen connections with neighboring and regional nations based on good neighborliness, as seen by the development

of ties with Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, Iraq has hosted some rounds of consultations between Saudi and Iranian delegates; Riyadh and Tehran intend to carry on talks in accordance with their considerations.

Bagheri Kani stated that the so-called normalization of relations with the Zionist regime is a reaction to their own difficulties, rather than a deliberate endeavor.

According to recent surveys conducted by various Western institutions, almost 80% of people in northern African countries and the littoral states of the Persian Gulf oppose normalizing ties with the Zionist regime.

Regarding the crisis between Ukraine and Russia, he noted that Iran has relations with many countries around the world and that the Islamic Republic has declared that it will take a neutral posture and not assist any side.

Regarding the West's involvement in the recent uprising in Iran, he said although Western nations had miscalculated the course of events there, they are currently unable to take any significant action against the Islamic Republic.

Iranian, Iraqi FM's speak over phone

FM Fuad Hussein says 'we seek to reduce tension between Saudi and Iran'

from page 1 ► Iraq has strong cultural and religious links with Iran. Additionally, the two nations share linguistic, ethnic, and historical affinities.

Iraq and Iran also have 1,258 km land border and 351 km water border.

Along with facing similar dangers, Iran and Iraq also have shared economic and security objectives.

Given the numerous cultural and religious similarities, improving connections between the two states has long been a priority for both governments.

According to Tasnim, Foreign Minister Hussein also said Iraq is seeking to bring the views

of Iran and other countries closer together.

Iraq has so far held five rounds of talks between Iran Saudi Arabia.

"We seek to reduce the tension between Saudi and Iran through negotiations in Baghdad because the security of the region concerns us all. We are seeking to create understanding between Iran and other countries," Tasnim quoted him as saying.

He added, "We are part of this region and have strong ties with neighbors. Our policy is based on creating a balance."

The foreign minister also said his country is against use of the Iraqi soil for attack on other countries.



Tehran has long been complaining that militant separatist Kurdish groups use northern Iraq for hide and seek operations in west and northwestern Iran.

Iranian homegrown plane to fly soon



TEHRAN- The first flight of an Iranian-built aircraft is scheduled to take place in the next weeks, according to the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran.

After Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei emphasized the necessity to expand the industry, Mohammad Mohammadibakhsh, the CEO of the Civil Aviation Organization, announced on Saturday that the nation is moving forward with the construction of passenger planes.

The Ministry of Defense is in charge of producing a local plane and the Civil Aviation Organization is monitoring the process, he said, adding the first phase of manufacturing the new platform of Iran-140 plane has been completed.

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"We think the new platform of Iran-140 aircraft will make its maiden flight by the end of this year (March 20)," Mohammadibakhsh said, stressing that the plans to utilize the Iranian plane for tasks other than carrying people have been finalized.

In addition, Mohammadibakhsh

said just 175 of Iran's 330 passenger aircraft are now in use.

With 90 airports and a population of over 80 million, Iran requires at least 550 aircraft of all sorts and classes, he remarked.

MAPNA, an Iranian energy and infrastructure firm, has launched a project to produce airplane engines, according to the CEO of the Civil Aviation Organization.

He emphasized that significant progress has been made in developing an indigenous airplane engine and expressed expectation that the final version will be exhibited soon.

President Ebrahim Raisi revealed that he had instructed the factory's specialists to start producing domestic passenger planes with at least 72 seats soon

after visiting the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) in June 2022.

President Ebrahim Raisi revealed that he had instructed specialists in the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) to immediately start producing domestic passenger planes with at least 72 seats.

Raisi visited the factory in June 2022.

The Civil Aviation Organization confirmed intentions to start production line for 100-seater passenger aircraft in February 2021.

By receiving assistance from local knowledge-based industries, Iran has officially become self-sufficient in overhaul and supply of aircraft components and replacement parts.

IRGC has special place in people's hearts: top commander

TEHRAN- The chairman of the Armed Forces' General Staff has stated that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is a portion of the "people's hearts".

Speaking with Iran Press, Mohammad Bagheri remarked that the IRGC's flag, like Iran's, is a "symbol of our country and one of the country's vital aspects."

Bagheri continued by saying that the sanctions and pressures placed on the IRGC have no purpose for the Iranian people other than to strengthen them.

The military chief declared that the Iranian people will completely realize the goals of the Islamic revolution.

He also noted that Iran's foes would not succeed in any form.

The remarks by Major General Bagheri came as people on Saturday attended in large numbers in the rallies marking the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution



victory. Iranians from all walks of life joined the march despite the enemy's threats and different forms of pressure on the Islamic Republic.

Speaking at a ceremony on Sunday, the senior general said people's massive participation in the rallies "thwarted plots, provocations and evil designs of the enemies".

He also said participation in the current year's rallies witnessed a 30 percent increase in comparison to a year before the Coronavirus pandemic.

The armed forces chief added people's huge participation in the Bahman 22nd rallies is "an indication that the wise Iranian nation firmly 'enter the scene' whenever they notice the enemy's plots."

The rallies "put on display the unity, solidarity and strength of the establishment and people of Islamic Iran," the general noted.

These magnificent rallies will surely make the duties of officials "heavier" in serving the citizens, he pointed out.

In conclusion he asked armed forces, parliament representatives, and officials to fully back the government so that it can serve the nation in a better way.

Failure of INSTEX indicative of European non-compliance with JCPOA: spokesman

From Page 1 ► The mechanism, formally called INSTEX, was quietly shut down in late January after being dormant for a long period of time.

The controversial history of INSTEX dates back to the heady days of 2019 when France, Germany, and the UK – collectively known as the E3–, were trying to rein in a Trump administration bent on dismantling the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA), through blanket economic sanctions that ran counter to the lofty promises envisioned in the terms of the JCPOA.

In May of 2018, then-U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions against Iran with the aim of choking off its economy. In order to address Iran's grievances, the E3 came up with the idea of INSTEX. Thus began the story of a mechanism that miserably failed in fulfilling its mandate.

The INSTEX mechanism was at first devised to facilitate Iran's oil sales but did not process even a single oil sales transaction.

Kanaani told the Tehran Times that the failure of the ill-fated mechanism was indicative of



the fact that the European governments failed to live up to their commitments under the JCPOA.

Following is the full text of the Tehran Times' interview with Kanaani:

At the end of January, the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) was dismantled. What does it indicate?

It indicates that European governments failed to honor their undertakings in terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and compensating for the losses caused as a result of US's illegal and unilateral withdrawal

from the 2015 nuclear deal and they have not been able to meet the Islamic Republic of Iran's expectations.

What is the update about blacklisting IRGC as UK's media have announced it has been stopped?

Blacklisting Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was an irresponsible action raised due to EU's officials' misunderstanding and under the influence of the enemies and opponents of the Islamic Republic in the European's parliament. The IRGC is the biggest anti-terrorist force in the region and in the world. According to Iran Constitution, IRGC is among the official and armed forces and

blacklisting it violates the provisions of the UN Charter. Of course, Iran has given the necessary warnings about this issue and I hope wise people and prudent groups in Europe prevent any irrational move in this regard.

In his recent interview with Wall Street Journal, Josep Borrell does not look very disappointed but he seems to be the only protector of JAPOA in Europe; he has also given some warnings to Iran regarding missile sale to Russia and the end of JCPOA, [do you think] Borrell has distanced himself from his role as the facilitator of negotiations?

Josep Borrell, as the high representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, has taken the facilitating role in resuming JCPOA negotiations and lifting sanctions, and he is still trying to fulfill his role. The positions of European and American officials show that they are optimistic towards the JCPOA as an agreement to resolve disputes over nuclear issue, and they believe in resuming the implementation of the JCPOA. Generally, the path of diplomacy is open, especially since the Islamic Republic as the other side of the deal also has exerted serious effort into diplomacy and negotiations, but any agreement is a two-way path.

Guignol's Band Rides A Streetcar Named Desire

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – A bus offering a free ride will not make it to the destination. That's a rule of thumb that many Iranian opposition figures fancying themselves as the champions of change in Iran don't know.

In another charade, key figures of the Iranian opposition, including a holdover pampered Iranian prince, gathered at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. to create the false impression of unity among the cantankerous opposition.

The first thing that grabbed the attention was the participants' bloated feeling of importance. They sat beside each other as if millions of shackled Iranian plebs gagging for food and freedom are lining up at the gates waiting for a reveler prince to come to their rescue.

"This bus is free of charge! You don't need to buy a ticket," an overconfident Reza Pahlavi, son of the last imperial Iranian dictator, said. He was responding to a question on why representatives of Iran's ethnic minorities were not invited to the event.

The prince, or the crown prince as some may

argue, indicated that he was the driver – but without a driving license. That may be why the first one to hop off the bus was Abdullah Mohtadi, the head of the Kurdish Kumala Party, a group that pines for separatism and is neglected by Kurds. He recorded a video message for the controversial event but later said that he accepts no conditions from the wretched prince.

Pundits believe that the reason internal disputes went out of hand this quickly is the fact that all opposition leaders prioritize their personal interests over those of the Iranian people. This has been the case for 44 years. That's why Pahlavi and his minions along with other detested opposition groups have failed at every turn to challenge the Islamic Republic, which enjoys the grassroots support of Iranians.

The latest display of support came a few hours after the Washington D.C. event, when an estimated 21 million participated in the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, an occasion the opposition worked their butt off to overshadow, only to miserably fail. According to observers, this level of turnout is

explained by the fact that the Iranian people may have been grappling by some economic hardships but they know for sure that these hardships can be resolved. They know that the opposition is mainly driven by their own interests, not those of the people.

Then there is another factor. In recent years, key opposition figures have worked to prevent any sanctions relief for the Iranian people. Every time there were kind of negotiations and a chance for sanctions relief, the opposition became vocal in their opposition to sanctions removal. In a sense, they are not just opposition to the Islamic Republic, but also opposition to economic opening, which they see as a great danger to their political aspirations.

Also, being an oppositionist has proven lucrative for almost all the participants. Of course, an exception should be made here; Reza Pahlavi does not make profits from being an oppositionist. He already enjoys a huge household wealth inherited from his dictator ancestors who in turn became opulent overnight after ascending to the throne. Other oppositionists, however, rake in lump sums annually in the name of freedom.

to restrictions as the result of their involvement in illegal actions over the last months.

Ayatollah Raisi also said that unprecedented facilities have been created for Iranians living abroad to return home, including those who have once committed actions in violation of the law, according to Tasnim.

Commenting on the package, Salimi said, "Iranians abroad are social capitals and cultural ambassadors of the Islamic Republic in all parts of the world, and most of them are loyal to Iran, and some of them want to return to the country."

He made the remarks in an interview with Iran's official news agency IRNA.

He said, "Iranians abroad are interested in the development and progress of Iran, and the new approach of the 13th government can be effective in attracting them to be in Iran."

The senior lawmaker added, "Ayatollah Raisi, in his speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the revolution, announced the government's unity package for the return of Iranians abroad. Its implementation will restore trust, and I hope we can use this capacity well."

He considered Iranians abroad as important assets and said, "Due to their interest in the country, they can untie the knots of the country to remove the obstacles to progress."

Salimi noted, "I hope Iranians abroad will take advantage of this opportunity because the motherland's arms are open to all of them. The privileges and capacities that the government has created for them are a source of happiness. Of course, the conditions should be clearly clarified and information should be given to Iranians abroad so that we can use this opportunity to build our dear Iran. Iranians, wherever they are in the world, have their hearts attached to dear, proud and powerful Iran, and the opportunity created is the admirable approach of the government towards Iranians abroad."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Head of hockey federation Ghadimi asks more support

From Page 1 ► "The performance of the Iranian players in the FIH indoor World Cup in South Africa proved that if they are supported, they have a high potential for beating big teams in the international competitions," said Ghadimi after the Iran team's success.

"In our first game of the tournament against Argentina, we were not lucky enough and we lost the game, but in the second and third games against Australia and the U.S, we showed our power by defeating these two teams," he added.

Team Melli also claimed bronze in 2018 after beating Australia.

Reza Norouzzadeh, star of the Iranian team, was on the top scorer list of the indoor World Cup in South Africa with 16 goals. Norouzzadeh also scored 16 goals in the previous edition of the tournament and ranked third among top scorers.

Speaking about the problems of hockey in Iran, the president of the federation said: "The problem that the medalists and champions of hockey always face is that the Ministry of Sports and Youth does not give any awards to appreciate them. Considering that hockey will take part in the Asian Games and many prestigious international competitions, it should get more attention and support from the country's sports officials."

Ghadimi also referred to the low budget of his federation.

"Today, our players are competing against the top teams of the hockey world while they have few facilities. We do our best according to our planning but I hope that after the FIH 2023 World Cup, Iran national team and hockey sport will receive more support from the Ministry of Sports," he added.

Also Nourani, Iran's head coach, before the South Africa tournament talked about the same problems: "Hockey moves backwards every year because of financial issues and needs the attention of the authorities."

Taremi likely to be best goalscorer in Liga Portugal

TEHRAN – The Iranian professional player has been estimated to be the best goalscorer in the current Liga Portugal.

Portuguese B24 media has kicked off a poll asking football lovers to predict the number one goalscorer in the Primeira Liga.

The Iranian striker is among five nominees on the poll with scoring 11 goals so far.

Three other football players have scored 12 goals each which shows Taremi has one goal less than his rivals in the tightly-contested challenge.

Taremi, who signed a contract with FC Porto in 2020, scored 23 goals for the team in his first season. By finding the back of the net 26 times, he witnessed another successful season for the club.

In his third season for the Portuguese club, he has so far scored 20 goals the number of which is expected to increase until the season ends.

Taremi was selected as the best player of Portugal's League in the months of November and December 2022.

Moreover, Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi was selected for the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) Men's AFC Team 2022.

Foolad determined to prolong ACL adventure

TEHRAN – Foolad football team of Iran will meet Al Faisaly of Saudi Arabia in the knockout stage with both teams determined to prolong their AFC Champions League adventure.

Foolad will face Al Faisaly on Feb. 20 at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

Al Faisaly finished top of Group E – ahead of FC Nasaf on goal difference – but that was subsequently followed by a shock relegation from the Saudi Pro League, the-afc.com wrote.

Al Faisaly, however, are very much in the running to make a speedy return to the top flight with the

club sitting in fifth place but only three points adrift of the Saudi Division One top spot.

Foolad's form in the Iran Professional League has been patchy but that won't stop the team from a determined effort to advance to the AFC Champions League quarter-finals.

Foolad will look to reproduce the form which saw them top Group C after registering three wins and three draws.

Iran must defeat Japan at FIBA World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran basketball team will have to beat Japan on February 23 to keep hopes alive for booking a place in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

Team Melli will play Japan at the Takasaki Arena.

After five intense windows of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers, there are only two more spots available for teams to qualify for the World Cup later this team.

The Philippines and Japan are in as co-hosts of the flagship event. Lebanon, New Zealand, Australia, and China later joined them with outstanding performances through the Qualifiers.

While four teams are left in contention for these two spots, only two can get the job done at the end of the first gameday. If Saudi Arabia can beat New Zealand and India beats Jordan, the final spot from Group E will be decided on the final gameday between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

If Japan can defeat Iran or Kazakhstan can defeat China, then the final spot from Group F will also be decided on the final gameday between Iran and Kazakhstan. Iran will qualify for the World Cup if can defeat Japan and China can defeat Kazakhstan.

Paykan, Esteghlal match postponed due to heavy snow

TEHRAN – The match between Paykan and Esteghlal football teams has been postponed due to the heavy snowfall in Tehran, capital of Iran.

The match was scheduled to be held at the Pas Stadium but was canceled due to the snowfall.

Esteghlal are in the third spot with 36 points in 19 matches.

Paykan sit 12th with 21 points out of 19 matches.

Nine Iranian wrestlers to compete at Egypt event

TEHRAN – A total of nine Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestlers will compete in the Ibrahim Moustafa wrestling tournament in Egypt.

Four Greco-Roman wrestlers Meysam Dalkhani (63kg), Mohammad Reza Geraei (72kg), Mohammad Hadi Saravi (97kg) and Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg) will compete at the event. They will be headed by Hassan Rangraz.

Freestyle wrestlers Yasin Rezaei (61kg), Peyman Biabani (65kg), Hossein Abouzari (74kg), Amir Hossein Kavousi (79kg) and Amir Hossein Firouzpour (97kg) will participate in the event. The team will be headed by Ehsan Amini and Iman Mohammadian.

The Ibrahim Moustafa tournament will be the second Ranking Series event this year slated for February 23–26 in Alexandria, Egypt.

The first Ranking Series was held in Zagreb, Croatia from February 1 to 5.

Russian Sports Minister Matytsin to travel to Tehran

TEHRAN – Russian Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin will travel to Tehran to meet his Iranian counterpart Hamid Sajadi. Matytsin and his accompanying delegation will travel to the Iranian capital on Wednesday.

In the one-day trip, the two sides will sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral sports cooperation.

Matytsin will also visit some sports facilities in Iran.



Rare photo released of a meeting between Ayatollah Khamenei, Imad Mughniyeh

TEHRAN – A new photo released on Sunday showed Imad Mughniyeh receiving a gift from the Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The photo was released on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the Hezbollah military commander. It was published by a Twitter account covering news of Ayatollah Khamenei. The date the photo was taken is not clear but it seems that the photo has been taken long ago.

Mughniyeh, known as al-Hajj Radwan, was a key Hezbollah figure who was assassinated on February 12, 2008 by a car bomb in Damascus, Syria.



Commodities worth over \$900m exported from Markazi province in 10 months



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, commodities worth \$903.706 million were exported from Markazi province, in the center of Iran, during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023).

Alireza Sediqi-Rad, the acting head of the province's customs department, said the 10-month export indicates 12 percent drop year on year.

He said that the commodities were exported to 83 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, and named billets, aluminum ingots, chemical products, welded joints, liquified gas, electric wire and metal structures, synthetic polyester fibers, tissue roll, industrial dry milk, aluminum cans, rebar, glass containers, tiles, food, and plastic products as the major exported items.

The official further announced that commodities worth \$521.968 million were imported to the province in the first ten months of the current year, with a 32-percent rise year on year.

He said that the products were imported from 51 countries including the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, China, India, and Hong Kong, and named coils, aluminum ingots, generators, raw sunflower seeds, all kinds of edible purees, juice packets, gelatin capsules, raw peanuts, silicon metal, all kinds of edible essential oils, edible gelatin, steel sheet, juice can, and printing ink as the major imported items.

As previously announced by Ali Jodaki, the acting head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, the value of export from Markazi province rose 39 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), from its preceding year.

He said that over 917,000 tons of non-oil commodities worth \$1.109 billion were exported from the province in the previous year.

He named petrochemical products, aluminum ingots, juices, chemicals, all kinds of glass, casting products, polyester fibers, rebar, flowers and plants, heavy and light

polyethylene, and polypropylene as the main products exported from the province in the previous year, and Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the major export destinations.

The official further announced that 129,000 tons of products worth \$446 million were imported into the province in the past year.

He named alumina powder, carbon anode, aluminum coil, peanuts, juice raw materials, aluminum ingots, steel pipes and rebars, juice bags, and cotton as the major imported items, and China, Turkey, the UAE, India and Germany as the main sources of imports.

More than 2,800 production units are active in Markazi province, of which 250 units are also active in the field of export.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports rose 17.66 percent during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, registering a new record high.

According to Mohammad Rezvani-Far, Iran exported about 103 million tons of non-oil goods valued at \$45.3 billion in the mentioned 10 months, also registering a 2.93-percent increase in weight.

Liquefied natural gas was the main exported product in the said time span, accounting for 15.4 percent of the total value of the exports.

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

The average value of each ton of exported goods has increased from \$385 in the first 10 months of last year to \$440 in the current year's same period, which indicates a growth of 14.31 percent, the IRICA head said.

The Islamic Republic also imported 31 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$48.5 billion in the first 10 months of the present year, with a 16.86-percent growth in value and a 7.6-percent decrease in weight, year on year.

Corn, rice, soybeans, wheat, sunflower oil, barley, and soybean meal were among the items imported into the country in the said period, according to Rezvani-Far.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the mentioned 10 months, followed by China, Turkey, India, and Germany.

The average value of each ton of imported goods in the said 10 months was \$1,571, which has grown by 25.74 percent compared to the figure for the previous year's same time span.

from page1▶Having an estimated 67 billion barrels of in-situ oil, West Karoun fields definitely deserve the spotlight which has been put on them recently.

Through taking some major steps, such as supply of the main equipment, the development process of South Azadegan oilfield has been accelerated over the past year.

In early July, 2022, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the country's major exploration and production companies, public and private banks, and financial institutions for the development of Azadegan oil field.

Based on the MOU which was signed by NIOC Head Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr and managers of the banks and domestic exploration and production companies, seven billion dollars will be invested in the field's development project to increase its production capacity to 570,000 barrels per day.

"With an investment of nearly seven billion dollars, the production capacity of this field will reach 220,000 barrels per day in the second year of its development, and will reach 570,000 barrels of oil per day in the next seven years," Oil Minister Javad Oji told the national TV at the time.

And in late August, Managing Director of Petropars Company Shamseddin Mousavi said the



South Azadegan oilfield development accelerated

construction of South Azadegan oil field's flowlines has reached 10 percent physical progress.

"The contractor for the construction and commissioning of the field's wellhead facilities and flowlines has started the work on the project which has progressed about 10 percent so far," Mousavi said.

He said all the necessary equipment used in the project

including HIPP and Wellhead Control Panel are going to be manufactured by domestic companies and Petropars is currently negotiating with some manufacturers in this regard.

Mousavi further noted that negotiations are also underway with domestic companies for the cladding and coating of high-pressure pipes in this project, and emphasized that Petropars is determined to fulfill its

commitment to early production in this field.

Al these measures led to the increase in the oil production from this field over the past year, as the managing director of Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), which is in charge of developing the West Karoun oilfields, has announced that daily production of oil from South Azadegan has increased by 45,000 barrels over the past year.

Abouzar Sharifi said with putting 36 wells into operation in South Azadegan field, the daily production capacity of this joint field increased by 45,000 barrels.

With the implementation of 120 km in the flowlines section and 25 km in the oil transfer pipelines section, the mechanical completion of five manifolds, as well as the start of operation of two manifolds in the past one year, the development of this field has accelerated and in the near future the goals of the development plan of the first stage of South Azadegan will be realized, he stated.

Declaring that the main challenge in the development of the field was the supply of the required basic goods, he added that with a lot of follow-ups, this company has managed to supply 200 km of pipes, as one of the most important events in this sector was the construction of the sour service flowline by HFW method completely domestically and for the first time in the country.

Origins of rail transit via Iran diversified

TEHRAN- The origins of transporting transit goods through the railway network of the country have been diversified in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21, 2022), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) announced.

"In this year, we were looking for the variety of cargo and the countries of origin of transit goods via the Iranian rail route", Miad Salehi said, adding, "With the agreements we had with countries like Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia, in the first quarter of this year, we transported 60,000 tons of potash fertilizer for the first time from eastern Russia to the destination country by rail through Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran."

The official described transporting this amount of fertilizer as a significant record in its own kind and stated: "Due to the attention of the 13th government to the issue of rail transport diplomacy, last year we set a record by transiting 1.913 million tons of goods, and broke the rail transit via

the country."

On February 7, Tehran hosted an international conference to recognize the capacities and potentials of rail transport of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the participation of Uzbekistan, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

As reported, the conference was aimed at making Iran's international rail transport capacities more known, especially the advantages of international rail corridors passing through Iran.

Senior directors and representatives of railways from Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Russia, along with rail cargo forwarding companies from Uzbekistan and Russia, were present at this international gathering.

Also, some Iranian international rail transport companies participated in the one-day event to present their services and capabilities for international transport and



transit from Iran to the participants.

Considering the strategic position of Iran, as well as the important international rail corridors from north to south and east to west that pass through the country, as well as the connection of the railway network of the Islamic Republic of Iran to open waters, Iran's route is one of the shortest, safest and most economical routes for rail transit from east to west, especially the cargo transportation of the landlocked countries of Central Asia to Europe, India, as well as transportation of transit cargo from the important ports of Iran.

Russia will replace Siemens turbines with Iran-made ones

TEHRAN- Russia will reportedly replace German-made hydropower-plant turbines with Iranian-made ones as Western sanctions have halted operations of Siemens in Russia since February 2022.

As RT reported, MGT-70 gas turbine units are copies of Siemens hardware, developed by the Islamic Republic. The country attained a license for their assembly and localized production before a recent wave

of anti-Iran sanctions took effect.

Currently, Russia can domestically produce small and medium turbines, but devices with a large capacity of between 100MW and 120MW were produced at a Siemens assembly

plant in Russia.

The Iranian turbines could potentially replace equipment produced by the German industrial giant, which halted operations in Russia last year due to sanctions.

TEDPIX loses 12,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 12,110 points to 1.545 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.035 billion securities worth 44.938 trillion rials (about \$112.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

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)



There are 880 active industrial parks in Iran

TEHRAN – As announced by Mohammad-Mehdi Baradaran, Iran's deputy industry, mining and trade minister, there are 880 active industrial parks in the country.

Also, as announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) in mid-January, the construction of 696 workshops have been completed in the industrial parks of the country.

Ali Rasoulia said, "We have planned to build 1,746 workshop units in the industrial parks and zones of the country, of which 696

units have been already completed."

Out of 696 completed units, 222 units were built by provincial companies and 474 units by the private sector, and 264 workshop units are also under construction, he added.

As previously announced by the official, 1,433 small workshop units were established in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), most of which were the production and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The program was approved in the Iranian

From page 1 ► And slowly but surely, after months of investigations, the same Western governments backed down saying there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that Moscow was behind such a major act of sabotage.

The question that many failed to answer was why would Russia destroy one of its biggest assets?

The other big question is why would Moscow destroy its energy infrastructure at a time when it was supplying gas to Europe (albeit at a lower level than before the war broke out), but nevertheless still a valuable asset contributing to Russia's economy.

What crippled Russian gas supplies to Europe of which the continent relied for 40% of its energy needs before the Ukraine conflict erupted was Western sanctions against Russian energy and its Nord Stream pipelines. This led to the energy crisis in Europe.

The veteran journalist Seymour Hersh now says a source has revealed to him that the explosions were a covert military operation ordered by the White House and carried out by the CIA.

Hersh is not your average journalist.

The award winning 85-year-old reporter was the one who broke major international news headlines such as the mass U.S. murder of 500 civilians at My Lai in Vietnam and the U.S. torture of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

The investigative journalist has concluded and published his findings, with the help of an inside source. The findings reveal that American deep-sea divers, using a NATO military exercise as a cover, had planted mines along the Russian pipelines that were later detonated remotely.

The US establishment has long been obsessed with Russian gas being sent to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline 1 and sold at a cheap price.

At one point, the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on all the firms that were in the process of building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was expected to be finished before the Ukraine war broke out.

This would have increased the European Union's dependency on Russian energy even further but was setting off alarm bells in Washington.

The U.S. sanctions was condemned by EU members who saw it as an attempt to force the bloc to buy American liquified natural gas (LNG) rather than Russian pipeline gas.

Some say the Ukraine war was all about cutting off Russian gas supplies to Europe and replacing them with American LNG, and they do not appear to be too far off the mark.

Today, EU members are waiting in line to buy American LNG despite the German economy minister accusing the U.S. of "astronomical prices" for its supplies.

The cognitive war against Iran and geopolitical shift



From page 1 ► other cities I visited delicate. Women walk around and carry out activities in public places safely. Some of them are neatly dressed in hijab, and some are not.

Several people expressed their astonishment when I posted a photo of me at the TDF venue on Facebook, where I was sitting with two women in the middle of so many male participants. This surprise is not strange considering how massive the news is about "how cruel this regime treats women." The media have shaped public opinion about Iran.

As written by Waltzman (2022), quoting from Bernal et al., "cognitive warfare can be functionally defined as 'the weaponization of public opinion, by an external entity, for the purpose of (1) influencing public and governmental policy and (2) destabilizing public institutions.'"

The enemy attacks the public's cognitive abilities in cognitive warfare by manipulating emotions. Stories of women being oppressed, even killed, will instinctively easily trigger public emotion and anger. But this also really depends on how the media reports it. How many women have suffered in Palestine as a result of Israeli occupation, or in Afghanistan, as a result of the US occupation for 20 years, but because there is no such massive media orchestration, public opinion doesn't care?



Who bombed Russia's gas pipelines?

Experts say these cases further highlight how the EU has failed to establish its own sovereign and independent foreign policies and continues to follow American orders when it comes to international affairs.

Following the Ukraine war, the EU remained dependent on Russian gas and Hersh says as long as the EU remained dependent on the Russian pipelines for cheap natural gas, Washington was afraid that countries like Germany would be reluctant to supply Ukraine with the money and weapons it needed to defeat Russia.

According to the investigative journalist, planning for the attack began in December 2021, months before the Ukraine conflict, but it was at this period in time, with the EU still relying on Russian gas after the war began, that President Joe Biden authorized his national security advisor Jake Sullivan to bring together an interagency group and come up with a plan to destroy the Russian pipelines.

According to the inside source with direct knowledge about the pipeline explosions and who provided Hersh with the details, Sullivan instructed the group to plan the destruction of both Nord Stream 1 and 2.

During a number of meetings, the participants debated options with ideas proposed such as the U.S. Navy using a newly commissioned submarine to strike the pipeline directly. The U.S. Air Force discussed dropping bombs with delayed fuses that could be set off remotely. The CIA argued that whatever was done, it would have to be covert. Everyone involved understood the stakes.

"This is not kiddie stuff," the source told the veteran journalist. If the attack was to be traced back to the U.S., "It's an act of war".

Over the next few weeks, members of the CIA's working group began to draft a plan for a covert operation that would use deep-sea divers to trigger

an explosion along the pipeline.

In his extensive and detailed investigation report published online, Hersh reveals that a hand-picked team of Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency operatives was assembled somewhere in the Washington area, under deep cover, and worked out a plan, using Navy divers, modified submarines and a deep-submarine rescue vehicle, that succeeded, after much trial and error, in locating the Russian cable. The divers planted a sophisticated listening device on the cable that successfully intercepted the Russian traffic and recorded it on a taping system.

After much hesitation about the risks of conducting an attack in waters where the Russian navy has a presence, in early 2022, the CIA working group reported back to Sullivan's interagency group: "We have a way to blow up the pipelines."

On February 7, less than three weeks before the Ukraine war broke out, Biden met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

At the press briefing that followed, Biden defiantly said, "If Russia invades . . . there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it"

"It was like putting an atomic bomb on the ground in Tokyo and telling the Japanese that we are going to detonate it," the source told Hersh.

"The plan was for the options to be executed (after the conflict broke out) and not advertised publicly. Biden simply didn't get it or ignored it."

This is reported to have frustrated the planning group and the mission to blow up Nord Stream 1 and 2 was suddenly downgraded from a covert operation requiring that Congress be informed to one that was deemed as a highly classified intelligence operation with U.S. military support.

But it was also a blessing in disguise for Washington.

Under the law, the source explains "there was no longer a legal requirement to report the operation to Congress. All they had to do now is just do it - but it still had to be secret. The Russians have superlative surveillance of the Baltic Sea."

Following the revelations, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said NATO should hold an emergency meeting to discuss recent findings about the explosions.

"There are more than enough facts here: the explosion of the pipeline, the presence of a motive, circumstantial evidence obtained by journalists," Zakharova wrote on social media.

"We have repeatedly stated Russia's position on the involvement of the United States and NATO, noting that they did not hide it, bragging to the whole world about their intention to destroy the civilian infrastructure through which Europe received Russian energy resources," Zakharova said.

"We have also regularly underscored the reluctance of Denmark, Germany, and Sweden to conduct an open investigation and the opposition to Russia's participation in it. And this is despite the fact that our country has suffered huge costs. Now, the White House should comment on all these facts," she noted.

"So when will an emergency NATO summit meet to review the situation?"

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Hersh's blog needs more attention and the Western media must cover it fully.

Peskov has called for an international investigation into the blast saying that the world needs to know the truth. He further cautioned that the latest revelations must not be dealt with as a primary source of what had happened.

In the meantime, U.S. energy firms, just like U.S. arms manufacturers, are making a very lucrative profit.

WORLD HEADLINES

US fighter jet shoots down unidentified object over Canada

A United States fighter jet has shot down an unidentified cylindrical object over Canada in a joint operation by the North American neighbours.

The shootdown on Saturday was the second such action in as many days and comes as North America appeared on heightened alert following a week-long saga over a claimed Chinese spying balloon.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau first announced the shootdown over the Yukon territory in the country's north and said Canadian forces would recover and analyse the wreckage.

Canadian Defence Minister Anita Anand declined to speculate on the origin of the object, which she said was small and cylindrical in shape. She stopped short of describing it as a balloon but said it was smaller than the Chinese balloon shot down off South Carolina's coast a week ago, but similar in appearance.

She said it was flying at 12,100 metres (40,000 feet) and posed a risk to civilian air traffic when it was shot down at 3:41 EST (20:41 GMT).

"There is no reason to believe that the impact of the object in Canadian territory is of any public concern," Anand told a news conference.

The Pentagon said the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) detected the object over Alaska late on Friday evening. US fighter jets from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, monitored the object as it crossed over into Canadian airspace, where Canadian CF-18 and CP-140 aircraft joined the formation.

"A US F-22 shot down the object in Canadian territory using an AIM 9X missile following close coordination between US and Canadian authorities," Pentagon spokesperson Brigadier General Patrick Ryder said in a statement.

Almost a million march in France in protest at government pension reform plans

Police were out in force across France on Saturday as protesters held a sometimes restive fourth round of protests over government pension reforms.

Over 960,000 people marched in Paris, Nice, Marseille, Toulouse, Nantes and other cities, according to the Interior Ministry. Protesters hoped to keep up the pressure on the government to back down, and further action is planned for Feb. 16.

In the French capital, authorities counted some 93,000 participants, the most to demonstrate in Paris against the pension changes since the protests started last month.

The weekend demonstrations drew young people and others opposed to the pension proposals who weren't able to attend the previous three days of action, all held on weekdays.

This time, though, rail worker strikes did not accompany the demonstrations, allowing trains and the Paris Metro to run Saturday. However, an unexpected strike by air traffic controllers meant that

up to half of flights to and from Paris' second largest airport, Orly, were cancelled on Saturday afternoon.

In Paris, some workers and students who wanted to voice opposition attended the protests for the first time, owing to heavy weekday workloads.

"We often hear that we should be too young to care, but with rising inflation, soaring electricity prices, this reform will impact our families," Elisa Haddad, 18, said. "It is my first demonstration because I couldn't attend with uni. It is important that the voice of (France's) parents and students is heard."

French lawmakers began a rowdy debate earlier this week on the pension bill to raise the retirement age.

Saturday's protests featured flashes of unrest. One car and several rubbish bins were set on fire on a central Parisian boulevard as police charged the crowd and dispersed protesters with tear gas. Paris police said officers arrested eight people for infractions ranging from possession of a firearm to vandalism.

Brazil wants Russian investment in energy sector – envoy

Brazil is seeking investment in its energy sector from Russian gas major Gazprom, the country's ambassador to Russia, Rodrigo de Lima Baena Soares, has revealed.

"We have a new legal framework for the Brazilian gas sector, we expect investments from Gazprom in Brazil so that we have a serious presence of a large Russian company," he told RIA Novosti at the Prodexpo exhibition on Thursday.

Earthquake diplomacy: Greek foreign minister visits Turkey

Greek foreign minister Nikos Dendias visited the earthquake-stricken areas of Turkey Sunday, accompanied by his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The visit was part of a new round of so-called "earthquake diplomacy" between the two uneasy allies, whose relations have often been frosty, if not downright hostile. Something similar happened in 1999, three years after the two countries almost went to war over two uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea.

In August 1999, a 7.6 magnitude tremor had struck Turkey, resulting in about 18,000 dead; the following month, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck the Greek capital, Athens, killing 143 people. In both cases, the two countries sent rescuers to assist in each other's efforts. The warming of bilateral relations had been widely covered in the international media.

Cavusoglu recalled a letter that he, as a private citizen, had sent to TIME magazine at the time.

"Back then, I said that we should not wait for another earthquake to improve our relations. I repeat this now, as Turkey's foreign minister. We must make efforts to improve our relations," Cavusoglu said.

"I want to totally sign on on to what Mevlut said: that we should not wait for natural disasters to improve our relations," Dendias said later.



Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in France on Saturday in a fourth day of action against President Emmanuel Macron's pension reform, with unions planning to ramp up strikes if the plan is not dropped.

Dina Yulianti is Assistant Professor at Department of International Relations Universitas Padjadjaran Indonesia

Mazandaran ecotourism needs extra funding, expert says



TEHRAN --The development of ecotourism in the northern province of Mazandaran requires extra budget and funding, an ecotourism expert has said.

Ecotourism and eco-lodges are not well known in the region, which indicates a need for proper promotion and introduction of this branch of tourism and these types of accommodations, Ruhollah Forqani explained on Sunday.

Investing in eco-lodges in villages instead of hotels would be more cost-effective and beneficial for the government and private sector since hotels require a lot of budget, he added.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers and it is home to more than 3,500 villages and rural areas, hosting millions of domestic night-stays in a year.

As a four-season country with pristine and beautiful nature in different parts of the country, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to experience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in these eco-lodge units is much cheaper than other accommodation centers.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

Tours to explore nightlife of Iranian capital

TEHRAN – The tourism authorities of the Iranian capital plan to organize tours to explore Tehran’s nightlife, Tehran’s tourism chief has said.

There will be a chance to experience Tehran’s nightlife during the Noruz holiday (starts on March 21), which coincides with the holy month of Ramadan this year, Parham Janfeshan explained on Sunday.

A variety of routes are designed for night tours in this project to suit different tastes, the official added.

Hugging the lower slopes of the magnificent, snowcapped Alborz Mountains, Tehran is much more than a chaotic jumble of concrete and crazy traffic blanketed by a miasma of air pollution. This is the nation’s dynamic beating heart and the place to get a handle on modern Iran and what its future will probably be.

The metropolis has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh



Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Yasuj to develop tourism infrastructure



TEHRAN – The tourism infrastructure in Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, southwest Iran, is planned to be developed.

“By expanding the tourism infrastructure, we intend to attract more tourists to Yasuj to help promote its economy,” Yasuj’s Mayor has said.

There are all the necessary conditions in place for large investments in the tourism sector of Yasuj, Nastahan Moqadam

explained on Sunday.

The tourism development in Yasuj could make a significant contribution to reducing the unemployment rate as well as creating job opportunities for the locals, the official added.

The lesser-known province is home to various nomads and is a top destination for those interested in visiting in person the nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Many tourists from all over the world tend to observe the lifestyle of these hardworking people and spend a few days watching activities such as milking, yogurt making, buttering, oiling, woolen, carpeting, and much more. Many Iranian and foreign tourists are interested in sleeping in nomadic black tents.

From Page 1 ► Seljuk tiles were in the form of stars or crosses, and the best example is the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad. During this period, Kashan and Isfahan were among the most important hubs of tile production in the ancient land.

Here is a selection of historical structures adorned with impressive tilework:

Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque
One of the finest examples of tile in the Safavid era is Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, which took some 20 years to build.

The exterior of the mosque, entrance, corridor, and dome is covered with mosaic tiles. This beautiful mosque, its tiles are considered the culmination of Iranian tile art, was not a public mosque in its time, but a private prayer hall, with only the royal family and a group of Isfahan elders could use it.

The mosque was built by Shah Abbas the Great for one of the high-ranking clerics of the Safavid era, Sheikh Lotfollah Maysi al-'Amili (d.1622).

Due to the royal nature of the mosque, there is more boldness in applying colors. Also, at a certain time of the day, the reflection of light on the tiles makes a pattern of the dome which looks like peacock feathers and tails.

Imam Mosque
The unique tile style of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque was replicated on a larger scale in Abbasi Mosque, known as the Shah’s Mosque (now Imam Mosque).

Kashi-e Haftrang (Seven-colored tile) is made by putting together small square tiles and drawing a repetitive pattern on them. Although bold in color, its tiles are blue in their entirety. Moreover, all the motifs used in

Intricate details: feast your eyes on Persian tilework



its decorations and designs are quite abstract, indicating the celestial nature of the mosque and its spiritual nature.

Moghadam Museum
Located on Imam Khomeini St., downtown Tehran, Moghadam Museum has a relatively complete collection of different Iranian tile styles of different eras.

The tiles, however, do not originally belong to this house but have been brought here by Dr. Mohsen Moghaddam, the late owner of this house, from other buildings - particularly the ruined Qajar-era palaces and mansions.

Although most of the walls of the front-house museum are covered with colorful tiles, the basement tiles are the most interesting because what is displayed in this section

includes all kinds of Iranian tiles over a period of 900 years (from the fourth to the thirteenth centuries AH).

Holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS)

The domes of Imam Reza’s Holy shrine are covered in very old blue tiles. These tiles are some 900 years old and are considered the best in the Razavi shrine complex. That part of the tile, which has eight-pointed shapes, is known as “Sanjari tile” and their installation dates back to the Seljuk period.

Also, the shine embraces arrays of octagonal tiles that bear both verses of the Holy Quran, and a very exquisite and distinguished title inscription from the works of the Kharazmshahi period (dated 612 AH).

Atiq Mosque Isfahan
Isfahan Atiq Mosque features a substantial collection of architectural styles and decorations.

When it comes to tile arts, the two porches of the south and west of the mosque showcase some finest examples of intricate tilework. Both porches were built in the Seljuk period but were tiled in later periods (Ag Qiyyunloo and Safavid eras).

The south porch, known as Sahen Ebn-e Ebad, is a complete masterpiece of tile art, and the eastern porch is famous for its exquisite designs. Moreover, a very exquisite tile frame draws attention to the Kufic masonry line on the north wall of the porch. Some say the Iranian art of tilework has always been a mystery for tourists to discover.

Off the beaten track in Iran: Prison of Solomon

TEHRAN - Situated near Cyrus the Great’s private palace are the remains of the Prison of Solomon (Zendan-e Soleiman), variously believed to once being a fire temple, tomb, sundial, or store.

On the hill beyond is the Tall-e Takht– a monumental 6000-sq-meter citadel used from Cyrus’ time until the late Sassanian period. Local historians believe the references to Solomon date from the Arab conquest of Persia when the inhabitants of Pasargadae renamed the sites with Islamic names to prevent devastation.

Prison of Solomon is situated in a dramatic conical peak that dominates the valley landscape for miles around in northwest Iran.

Though there is no construction visible to modern sightseers, the cone was once enclosed by fortified walls and topped by a religious sanctuary that archaeologists suggest dates to 900 BC.

As an avid visitor, if you are reasonably fit, climbing to the crater’s edge should take less than 15 minutes. The path is muddy but obvious, zigzagging up from the nearby Takab road about 4km south of the main Takht-e Soleyman ruins.

Meaning “Solomon’s Prison”, the site did not gain its great religious significance until the early Sassanid period when Takht-e Soleyman —then known as Shiz— was established as a Zoroastrian religious sanctuary (in all likelihood having replaced nearby Zendan-e Soleyman as an earlier center of cult activity) in the early to mid-5th century CE.

The UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman (“Solomon’s Throne”) is an ancient isolated sanctuary that bears testimony to various eras of the nation’s history. It is situated in the southeastern highlands of West Azarbaijan province overlooking a lake with a backdrop of a snowcapped mountain range.

Takht-e Soleyman also embraces a fire temple, which was originally constructed of mud-brick (although foundations were generally of rough stone), but large sections of the complex, including the fire temple itself, were rebuilt of stone and fired bricks in subsequent centuries. The fire temple is flanked on either side (east and west) by two other cultic structures. To the west, on the other side of a long central hallway, a second fire temple may have served as



a personal place of worship for the royal family. Situated to the east of the main fire temple was the temple of the goddess Anahita, who had particular importance to the royal house and the warrior class—both of which were served by the local fire altar.

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

UNESCO says the site has strong symbolic and spiritual significance related to fire and water – the principal reason for its occupation from ancient times – and stands as an exceptional testimony of the continuation of a cult related to fire and water over some 2,500 years. “Located here, in a harmonious composition inspired by its natural setting, are the remains of an exceptional ensemble of royal architecture of Persia’s Sasanian dynasty (3rd to 7th centuries). Integrated with the palatial architecture is an outstanding example of a Zoroastrian sanctuary; this composition at Takht-e Soleyman can be considered an important prototype.”

Moreover, the 10-ha property includes Tepe Majid, an archaeological mound culturally related to Zendan-e Soleyman; the mountain to the east of Takht-e Soleyman that served as a quarry for the site; and Belqeis Mountain 7.5 km to the northeast, on which are the remains of a Sasanian-era citadel. The archaeological heritage of the Takht-e Soleyman ensemble is further enriched by the Sasanian town, located in the 7,438-ha landscape buffer zones.

Under travelers’ eyes

Here is a selection of comments that

visitors to the mountainous site have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

Impressive

A short hike of about 15min brings you to the top of this mountain. It’s impressive to see the very deep crater and read the information brochure in English about its development. The ruins themselves are not worth visiting. (StefanBaW235 from Biberach, Germany)

Hike up history

This is an extinct volcano with an empty crater. You do an easy hike up halfway through the mountain or go the rest which is a medium hike and takes a total of 20-30 minutes. You see a lot of birds flying around since they nested inside the volcanic crater. You see a nice view of Takht-e Soleyman from up here too. (AliG form San Francisco, CA)

A volcanic mountain with history

Evil spirits were once locked up in this mountain. This is the story. True or not, it doesn’t matter. The mountain is impressive and near the historic site of Takht-e Soleyman. It is worth climbing the edge of the volcano and looking inside, and smell... the devilish smell of sulfur. (marekp59 from Gdansk, Poland)

Difficult to climb

This is a hugely impressive site with an amazing history. It stands out from the landscape amazingly. I managed to climb three-quarters of the way up but found it too steep and difficult to reach the top and so was hugely disappointed. My husband and our guide got to the top and told me about the wonderful, deep pit at the top. Most people would manage the ascent. (Sus1952 from Palmerston North, New Zealand; reviewed: Apr. 2019)

Wow an amazing place

This is well worth the climb to get to the top. Looking down into the crater was a great experience. Also stunning views from the top. Be aware there are no bathrooms. (Youngone51 from New Plymouth, New Zealand)

Doorway to Hell

A small hill just off the road and a 10-min climb to look into this volcanic crater from the rim. It’s very worthwhile! (Markus U from Modling, Austria)

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Agriculture welcomes the assistance and expertise of knowledge-based companies in order to improve productivity, Agriculture Minister Javad Sadatinejad has said.

Emphasizing that the agriculture sector needs the help of technological and knowledge-based companies to increase productivity, the minister announced 260 main challenges of the sector that should be solved, IRNA reported.

The technological needs of the agriculture sector can be discussed by university students in their research and theses, he added.

“Certainly, the agriculture sector is an area that without the use of modern knowledge and technology, it is not possible to create the necessary products for the supply of sufficient and healthy food.”

This year, the Ministry of Agriculture has succeeded in building the first science and technology park and natural resources, as well as launching six technology and innovation villages in some provinces of the country, he highlighted.

For the next year, the necessary planning for setting up these villages in 10 other provinces of the country is also underway, he noted.

Sadatinejad went on to say that the platform for the establishment



Agriculture sector welcomes knowledge-based companies

of two thousand knowledge-based and technological companies in the science and technology park as well as innovation and technology villages has been provided.

The number of agricultural knowledge-based companies has increased from 280 to 480, he said, adding that the goal is to increase the share of agricultural knowledge-based companies from 4.2

percent to 6.5 percent.

He also said that the number of growth centers in the field of agriculture has increased by 18 percent.

“Our effort in the Ministry of Agriculture is to increase productivity in various sectors, including healthy food production, and this important goal will not be realized without using science.”

In December 2022, Reza Asadifar, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology said currently 7882 knowledge-based firms are operating in the country.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunications, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors in which researchers in technology companies are working.

In the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 2022-March 2023), new approaches have been taken to support knowledge-based companies both in terms of quality and quantity in line with realizing the goal of a knowledge-based economy.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as “The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating”.

Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

Iran sends more aid to quake-hit Turkey

TEHRAN – Iran has dispatched two more planes carrying humanitarian aid to quake-stricken Turkey, IRIB reported citing the Turkish TRT website.

The Iranian Embassy in Ankara has issued a statement, saying that since February 7 (one day after the earthquake in Turkey), in addition to sending search and rescue teams and health experts, Iran has sent seven planes carrying humanitarian aid and two field hospitals to Turkey.

Following the recent earthquakes in Turkey, Iran sent 80 people including six search and rescue groups, three groups of health experts, and a special group for emergency situations and rescue dogs to Turkey, according to the report.

Moreover, 46 health experts also arrived in Adana and Gaziantep on Friday, February 10, with three planes carrying humanitarian aid.

Earlier, Iran sent humanitarian aid weighing



eight tons to Turkey by two planes.

In addition to opening a field hospital in Turkey, Iran has also sent a total of 26 tons of humanitarian aid to the earthquake-stricken areas of Turkey.

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Turkey on February 6, resulting in more than 30,000 fatalities as well as tens of thousands of injuries in both Turkey and Syria.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 64

The rediscovery of *Grus leucogeranus* in the South Caspian, after an absence of records for 60 years, has been described by Ashtiani (1987).

Social and cultural values

A very important traditional duck-trapping area, one of the few remaining sites in the South Caspian Lowlands where this practice has not been replaced by hunting with guns.

The area is used for rice-farming outside the wintering period for waterfowl.

Current land (including water) use

Duck-hunting for local consumption and export. The duck-hunting was originally developed as market hunting and provided many local people with a livelihood throughout the winter months, but in recent years, the primary interest of many hunters has been for sport.

The hunters operate from trapping stations set on the embankment surrounding the main ab-bandan (flooded rice paddies), and use live decoy Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) to lure other ducks (principally Mallard, but also occasionally Teal *A. crecca*) into flight nets.

The duck-netting is carried out under licence from the Department of the Environment, each of trapping stations (each manned by two men) being permitted to capture up to ten birds a day throughout the hunting season.

The ab-bandans also provide a supply of water for irrigation during the dry summer months. The damgah contains several duck-trapping units named 'dooma'.

Each dooma consists of a pond with two semi-circular channels leading from them. One channel connects the pond with the main flooded field where most of the waterfowl and cranes spend their day.

The other channel ends blindly at a pen. During the trapping procedure, domestic ducks are thrown into the air in the direction of the pond.

The heavy, poorly-flying ducks just manage to clear the patch of thorny brush planted around their cage and land noisily in the pond where they

find the water strewn with floating grain.

The sight and sound of these flying and feeding ducks arouse the curiosity of wild ducks in the main flooded field. They swim up the narrow channel to the pond where they cached by trappers. Because of the height of the brush surrounding the pond and the narrowness of the channel, the wild ducks are unable to take flight and quickly trapped.

Agricultural activities (mainly rice farming) from April to early September. Fish farming into the irrigation ponds.

End of Season Shoot-out

Towards the end of each season, when duck netting becomes unprofitable, the area is opened up to hunting with guns in a massive “shoot-out”. There is a potential threat that Siberian Cranes could be shot accidentally.

This is the single greatest threat to the surviving flock of Siberian Cranes. In March 2000, the end of season “shoot out” happened whilst the Siberian Cranes were still present.

This was an extremely dangerous situation and it is very fortunate that no cranes were shot. They were still seriously disturbed by the shoot-out, and were forced to leave the site early (being subsequently located at Ardabil).

Since 2001, Department of Environment designate a Non-Shooting Area for whole area of Fereydoon Kenar with a total area of 5,427 ha. From this time end of season shoot out became strongly forbidden.

Aerial nets: The damgah has been

maintained by the local community for the purposes of trapping ducks. The local duck-trappers are concerned at the level of human disturbance and prevent shooting in the area, which is probably the only reason the Siberian Cranes have survived.

The traditional use of captive ducks and baited ponds with clap-nets is legal. The aerial nets used around the damgah present more of a problem because they are illegal.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Green taxes not used for environmental development’

While the Municipality of Tehran receives green taxes paid by pollutant industries, the money is not used for developing the environment or improving the industries, Ali Moridi, head of department of environment's (DOE) soil and water office has said.

The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Referring to proper laws adopted on waste management, he stated that there are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling.

عوارض آلاینده‌گی صرف ارتقای محیط زیست نمی شود

مدیرکل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلاینده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار علمی ایرنا، «علی مریدی» سه شنبه افزود: در سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا زمینه ای فراهم شود عوارض آلاینده‌گی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب ها کمک کنیم.

مدیر کل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت ادامه داد: البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.



IRCS offering rescue services in Turkey

Quick reaction forces of the Iranian Red Crescent Society are offering rescue services in the quake-stricken areas of Turkey, February 11, 2023.

On February 6, a series of large earthquakes hit southern Turkey and northern Syria, followed by hundreds of aftershocks.

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FEBRUARY 13, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Each fruit of the tree you have planted will be appreciated by a reward from Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 18:02 Dawn: 5:28 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:53 (tomorrow)

Persian literature: pre-Islamic

Part 4

Apart from the short legends on coins and seals, as well as the inscriptions already known from the mid-1950s onward (altogether not exceeding 100 lines:), Bactrian epigraphy was enriched about a decade ago by the discovery in 1993 of an important inscription of 23 lines in the Rabatak region, on the western border of the modern Afghan province of Baghlan.

Like the previously known monumental inscription from Sorkh Kotal of comparable length, the new inscription makes mention of the Kushan King Kanishka I and his official Nukunzuk.

It is of the utmost importance from a historical point of view, in that it led to a fundamental reassessment of early Kushan chronology and because of the remarkable similarity of some expressions in it to formulas known from Achaemenid and Sassanid inscriptions.

An even more sensational discovery concerns a series of over 100 documents on leather, cloth, and wooden slips found in northern Afghanistan.

They include letters (some of them still sealed at the time of their discovery), lists, and accounts, as well as legal documents such as marriage and sale/purchase/loan contracts, deeds of gift or manumission, and receipts.

Many of them are dated after a Bactrian era perhaps starting in 233 CE and thus seem to belong to a period between 342 and 781 CE.

Special mention must be made of a still partially unpublished single leaf of a manuscript in Manichean script in the Berlin Turfan Collection (M 1224), which contains a fragment of a homily in Bactrian or in a language closely related to it.

Sogdian literature is comparatively rich and includes—apart from a limited number of secular texts—an important quantity of Buddhist, Manichean, and Christian texts.

The earliest written documents are coin legends from the 2nd century CE, but the first longer texts are the so-called Ancient Letters, discovered in the Chinese frontier wall between Dunhuang and Loulan, and they are assumed to have been written in the early 4th century.

The Sogdian graffiti discovered about a decade ago in northern Pakistan and written in a ductus similar to that of the Ancient Letters are scarcely later in date.

More Sogdian inscriptions have been found as far as Kirgizia, Mongolia, and Ladakh. Together with the Ancient Letters, the documents from Mount Mugh, including letters, administrative, economic, and legal documents, are among the most important secular writings; they were saved from the Arabs by Diwashtich, the last ruler of Panjikant, around 722 CE.

Other texts of non-religious nature comprise a few medical fragments and especially a fragment of 44 lines of the Rustam epic cycle. A unique Mazdean fragment contains an Old Sogdian version of the Ashem vohu prayer.

Few Buddhist texts are complete, but some of the writings found at Dunhuang extend to several hundred lines. Most of them were translated from Chinese, more rarely from Indian originals.

From a literary point of view, the Vessantara

Jataka is stylistically the most developed and may be one of the few original Buddhist Sogdian compositions; although based on a Chinese model, it is rather a retelling than a mere translation.

With the exception of some twenty fragments, the majority of Manichean texts (for the most part extremely fragmentary) are in the German Turfan Collection in Berlin.

Many works are in fact translations from Parthian and Middle Persian hymns, though there also exists a considerable number of original Sogdian prose texts.

Subjects cover a wide range and encompass church history, cosmology, stories and parables, confessional texts, calendar tables, letters, lists, and glossaries.

Christian literature comes almost exclusively from the site of the Nestorian monastery of Bulayiq, north of Turfan, and all manuscripts with very few exceptions are in the German Turfan Collection in Berlin (a full and accurate catalogue is unfortunately still lacking).

Christian Sogdian texts are usually translations of known Syriac originals, a fact that often allows the identification of even small fragments.

In addition to biblical texts, the literary genres represented vary from homilies, hagiographic literature, apophthegmata, and commentaries to poems.

Old Chorasmanian material from the pre-Islamic period consists of coin legends, short inscriptions on vessels and ossuaries, as well as mostly unpublished documents on wood and leather dated after an unknown era, all of which have historical and linguistic, but no literary, value.

Late Chorasmanian is known primarily from the interlinear glosses in al-Zamakhshari's (1075-1144) encyclopedia Moqaddemat al-adab written in a manuscript of the 12th century from Konya, and also from quotations from the 13th-century lawbooks Qonyat al-monya by al-Zahedi and the slightly older Yatimat al-dahr by at-Tarjomani, as well as from the Resala, a glossary of the words occurring in those works as well as some other material.

Khotanese literature dates from the 7th to 10th centuries and is extremely rich, while Tumshuqese remains—the oldest document being the so-called Karmavacana text—are more scanty.

The Khotanese documents were found mainly at the sites of Buddhist monasteries within the former kingdom of Khotan as well as in the caves of Dunhuang.

Khotanese texts are almost exclusively of Buddhist nature, mostly translations from Sanskrit. Moreover, many works have a Chinese, Tibetan, or Sanskrit parallel text.

One of the oldest texts and the longest single Khotanese poem extant is a didactic poem dealing with various aspects of Buddhism, called the "Book of Zambasta" after the official who ordered it to be written.

Other works include medical treatises, letters, jatakas and avadanas, secular lyric poems, etc. There are also a few inscriptions on wood as well as some legends on wall paintings.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded.

Wartime drama on Abadan’s nostalgic theater named best at Fajr filmfest

From Page 1 ► The theater, which was reduced to rubble during the Iran-Iraq war and never restored afterwards, is remembered with nostalgia by the generations of people who lived their youth in Abadan and surrounding towns.

The film also brought Mohammad-Ali Basheh-Ahangar the Crystal Simorgh for best director during the closing ceremony of the festival held at Milad Tower on Saturday evening.

The winners of the festival were also awarded a Tara and a Shahin, the two newest brands from the Iranian automaking companies, Iran Khodro and Saipa.

Basheh-Ahangar donated his award to quake victims in Khoy, West Azarbaijan.

The special jury award went to Davud Saburi, the producer of "Mud Cubicle", which is a love story that takes place during Operation Mersad against the MKO militants in the summer of 1988 in western Iran.

Directed by Mohammad Asgari, "Mud Cubicle" was selected as the best directorial debut feature film. This film was also selected best film in the international competition.

The festival's president, Mojtaba Amini, awarded his special prize to Saeid Sadi, the producer of "Bavardeh Flowers" directed by Mehrdad Khoshbakht.

The film follows a group of

Producer Hamed Hosseini accepts the best film Crystal Simorgh for "Metropol Cinema" during the 41st Fajr International Film Festival at Tehran Milad Tower on February 11, 2023. (IRNA/ Marzieh Musavi)

engineers at the Abadan Refinery in the early 1980s that begin to restore other refineries damaged by Iraqi forces.

"Smart Kid" was named best animated film, co-directed by Hadi Mohammadian, Behnud Nekui and Mohammad-Javad Jannati.

The movie tells the story of Mohsen, a little boy who loves film superheroes

and tries to act like them. In his rare mission, he decides to help an animal from an endangered species in Iran.

Pardis Purabedini was named best actress for her role in "The Stranger" by Mohammad-Hossein Latifi, while Sara Hatami was picked as best supporting actress for her role in "A Man in Leather Jacket" directed by Hossein Mirzamohammadi.

New York gallery showcases works by Iranian, Brazilian artists

A poster for the exhibition "Brazil x Iran: Colors & Forms" at the High Line Nine Galleries in New York.

TEHRAN – High Line Nine Galleries in New York is hanging works by artists from Iran and Brazil in an exhibition at its Gallery 4.

The exhibit entitled "Brazil x Iran: Colors & Forms" is curated by Roya Khajavi and Flavia Tamoyo.

Works by Maritza Canee, Afsaneh Jabbari, Sylvia Martins, Dana Nehdaran, Dariush Nehdaran, Malekeh Naini, Rona Neves, Zahra Nazari

Nazari, Anna Paola Protasio, Maryam Palizigir, Vincent Rosenblatt, Mana Sazegara, Atieh Sohrabi, Bruno Schmidt, Erick Vittorino and Faranaz Zabetian are on view at the event that opened on February 2.

"With Brazil's long history of colonialist influences mixing with indigenous patterns and traditions of art and craft making and Iran's Persian codes and symbols expressed in textiles and fine art, we see patterns emerging from varied cultures, overtaking, underscoring and mixing with the other," the organizers wrote in a statement for the exhibition, which will be running through February 15.

"Using those codes and patterns as well as interpreting current events and psychological issues stemming from the stress of politics, the pandemic and perennial problems in growing up in our stressful world, Brazilian and Iranian artists creatively use visual media's international language to connect with each other and the viewer," they said.

Khajavi is an independent curator and cultural producer based in New York. She has largely focused on the work of young Iranian artists working both in Iran and beyond its

borders, seeking not only to support their artistic endeavors but to also facilitate awareness and cultural dialogue between artistic communities.

Since 2008, she has actively coordinated exhibitions by artists from the Middle East for institutions, including the Guggenheim Museum and the Asia Society, where she sat on the steering committee of the critically acclaimed exhibit, Iran Modern.

"Brazil and Iran have a long history of mixing with influences from the outside," Khajavi has said.

"Iran, despite numerous invasions by foreign powers throughout its history, has a deeply rooted ancient culture and has been able to maintain her rich heritage and identity which affects her art to this day," she added.

"Similarly, Brazil's various ethnic groups, a large indigenous population, a strong native culture, the Portuguese invasion, which resulted in 600 hundred years of colonialism, and Western culture have also created a rich history abundant in diversity and color from which her contemporary artists can't escape," she noted.

Marcel Proust’s “Letters to His Neighbor” forwarded to Persian readers

TEHRAN – "Letters to His Neighbor" by French novelist Marcel Proust has been published in Persian.

Ketabestan is the publisher of the book translated by Somayyeh Khaleidi.

Marcel Proust's genius for illuminating pain is on spectacular display in this recently discovered trove of his correspondence, "Letters to His Neighbor".

Already suffering from noise within his cork-lined walls, his poor soul was not ready for the

Front cover of the Persian edition of Marcel Proust's book "Letters to His Neighbor".

"The Whips of Manners" written by Hamid Hesam, is about Ali Aghamuhammadi, a member of the Expediency Discernment Council. This book is the first volume of a collection about Aghamuhammadi's life memories, which deals with events related to the period before the revolution until 1978.

In a part of the unveiling ceremony of this book, Hamid Hossam, the author of the book, who is mainly known for his works in the field of holy defense, stated that this is his first and only work about the pre-revolution era.

"In writing this book, we came across a series of peripheral narratives from those around Aghamuhammadi. In the narrations that we received from others, we reached Aghamuhammadi, and in the narrations that we received from him, we reached

others," he added about the fact that Ali Aghamuhammadi didn't want to talk about himself.

Ali Aghamuhammadi, a member of the Expediency Discernment Council, also came to the stage and spoke for a few minutes. Appreciating the efforts of the writer, he called him a valuable person.

In the continuation of the ceremony, he shared his memories of the pre-revolution era in his hometown, Hamedan, and said: "There were many liquor stores and alcoholics on Ibn Sina Street where we lived. In this difficult situation, we tried to be with people like Ayatollah Najafi, Martyr Madani, and Mollah Ali."

In another part, he stated that our beliefs are important and added that whoever runs

fresh hell when his neighbor Dr. Williams married a widow with small children.

Chiefly to Mrs. Williams, these ever-polite letters (often accompanied by flowers, compliments, books, even pheasants) are frequently hilarious, while Proust couches his fury in a gracious tone.

An English translation by Lydia Davis was published by New Directions in 2013.

In Davis's hands, the digressive brilliance of his sentences shines, "Don't speak of annoying

neighbors, but of neighbors so charming (an association of words contradictory in principle since Montesquieu claims that most horrible of all are 1) neighbors 2) the smell of post offices) that they leave the constant tantalizing regret that one cannot take advantage of their neighborliness."

Proust makes fine distinctions among his auditory torments, "The valet de chambre makes noise and that doesn't matter. But later he knocks with little tiny raps. And that is worse."

for position and power has lost the meaning of his life. If God wills, everyone will be given whatever they deserve.

Aghamuhammadi also talked about the importance of officials' duties to serve the people and said that people are important to God and officials must take care of people and serve the..