

Report **T** NATO arms for Ukraine depleted!

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- The NATO chief acknowledges Ukraine's demand for arms exceeds what the U.S.-led military alliance has to offer.

With all the military equipment NATO has sent, is it time for the military alliance to reassess its strategy toward the Ukraine war?

Speaking to reporters ahead of a NATO summit, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg admitted that "the current rate of Ukraine's ammunition expenditure is many times higher than our current rate of production - this puts our defense industries under strain."

Boosting stockpiles and production, Stoltenberg emphasized, "requires more defense expenditure by NATO allies."

The head of the U.S.-led military alliance has called on the 30 member states to speed up the production of arms for delivery to Ukraine and avoid a Russian victory. ► Page 5

Op-ed **T** Did Sy Hersh's journalism spark an alien invasion?...

By Martin Love

What's happening is full on desperation at the eventual loss one way or another of even the shadow of hegemony by the U.S., NATO and its alleged Mideast ally, Israel. And the desperation is only making things far worse, and for the U.S. and NATO countries, too.

Seymour Hersh's expose of who destroyed the Nordstream gas pipes in the Baltic Sea is another classic of his, as were his exposes of Abu Ghraib in Iraq and the My Lai massacre long ago in Vietnam to name just two others. And the mainstream U.S. media is ignoring the report of the best investigative journalist in the past 50 years who (aside from Julian Assange), and who since Abu Ghraib, cannot get published in the U.S. like at the New York Times or even the New Yorker magazine where he once worked. ► Page 5

Culprits of Dehloran shooting detained

TEHRAN - The deputy governor of Dehloran city in western Ilam Province said on Wednesday that security forces had arrested all perpetrators of shooting in the city on Tuesday night.

Latif Sadeghi said during a special operation a number of people who started shooting indiscriminately at civilians and police forces have been nabbed by the security forces, the city governor said a policeman was injured.

He warned that Dehloran has never been a hub for spelling insecurity and the honorable people of the city stand by their revolution.

Report **T** Handball federation ready to continue with Veselin Vujovic

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Veselin Vujovic, head coach of Iran handball team, has talked about parting ways with the country's national team but the handball federation officials are optimistic to renew his contract.

Iran finished 24th in the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship and made history by qualifying from group A after Spain and Montenegro.

However, after the tournament, the Serbian coach announced that he is not ready to renew his contract with the Iranian federation due to some seemingly unsolvable problems. ► Page 3

Historic Turnout

Ayatollah Khamenei hails mass rallies on revolution birthday as 'historic'

► Page 3



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Tehran, Beijing take new steps to develop all-out economic ties

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN - Following the recent official visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to China the two countries have taken new steps for the development of ties in economic areas including trade and energy.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, President Raisi arrived at Beijing International Airport Tuesday morning local time and was

welcomed by China's Minister of Culture and Tourism Hu Heping.

Later that day Raisi officially met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in a ceremony held at the headquarters of the National People's Congress of China in Beijing.

During President Raisi's stay, Iranian and Chinese officials inked 20 documents of cooperation in various fields including crisis

management, tourism, communication and information technology, environment, international trade, intellectual property, agriculture, export, healthcare, media, sports, and cultural heritage.

Chinese markets open to Iran agricultural, dairy products

Iran's Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad, who accompanied ► Page 4

Eight countries to attend Iran startup event

TEHRAN - The 5th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM 2023) will be held in Tehran Pardis Technology Park on February 26-27, with participants from the "D-8", the group of eight Islamic developing countries.

D-8 includes major Muslim developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

TIM 2023 is an international event with the aim of attracting capital to accelerate knowledge-based companies and startups, and also attract investors from D-8 member states.

Some 105 knowledge-based companies, startups, and technology centers from Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kenya, as well as 52 investors and business delegations from Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Syria, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Guinea, have announced readiness to participate in TIM 2023.

Also, university professors, investors, growth centers, accelerators, students, and those interested in technology and innovation have applied to attend the event. ► Page 7



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New world order emerging with Asia at core, Raisi says

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has stressed that a new world order with Asia as its hub is emerging and will eventually replace the old one.

Raisi made the comments on Wednesday while addressing the significance of China in the new global order to students, professors, and academic staff at Peking University. ► Page 2

Kashan: desert city of rose-water and atmospheric places

TEHRAN - The ancient city of Kashan, which sits where Iran's vast desert, Dasht-e Kavir, begins, has long been famed for its traditional rose-water destinations, atmospheric places, and hospitable people.

Located just 250km southeast of Tehran, Kashan is quite popular on the tourist trail and it attracts a fair share of travelers. However, it is often overlooked by travelers heading for the big attractions

farther south, such as Shiraz and Isfahan.

Kashan is home to lavishly decorated traditional homes, including the Borujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi houses, each showcasing scenes of amazing Persian architecture.

There are many things to do in Kashan that many tourists don't know about. And there are even more things to do near Kashan.

From ancient mausoleums to beautiful gardens and the Maranjab desert. Here is a selection of the best things to do there:

Agha Bozorg Mosque

In the center of the city, you will find the beautiful Agha Bozorg Mosque. Praised to be one of the greatest mosques of the 18th century. The symmetrical designs are stunning ► Page 6

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Tehran Papers **T**

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

Iran-China relationship has never been turbulent

On President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to China, the Etela'at newspaper quotes Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi as writing ► Page 2

Pentagon says Washington, allies infuriated at Iranian drones

TEHRAN- The U.S. Defense Department has said that Washington along with its regional allies are in fear of Iranian state-of-the-art drones and missiles.

The Pentagon reported that Iranian drones and missiles are among the most significant air defense threats facing the U.S. and its partners in the Persian Gulf region.

Such a report came shortly after a meeting in Riyadh between a U.S. official and representatives of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council.

They acknowledged that Iranian-domestically made drones and missiles are ultra-modern, being able to pulverize any air defense system.

The West's impetus to resurrect JCPOA still in question: Russian envoy

TEHRAN- The West's commitment to talks to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement has come into question, according to Russian envoy to international organizations in Vienna.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Mikhail Ulyanov signaled reaction to the Chinese President Xi Jinping's emphasis on Beijing's commitment to the negotiations.

Employing an acronym for the nuclear deal or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he added that "no doubt that China is committed to the JCPOA." ► Page 2

38th Fajr Music Festival unveils program

TEHRAN - The Fajr Music Festival has announced a program for its 38th edition, which will take place in Tehran and 16 provinces from February 17 to 22.

The festival is another part of the Ten-Day Dawn celebration, which is organized every year to mark the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

About 90 performances will be held at seven halls, including Vahdat and Rudaki in Tehran during the festival, the organizers said in a press conference on Wednesday. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran-China relationship has never been turbulent

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

from page 1 ► in an op-ed that the relationship between Iran and China has not seen any dark and turbulent points in the past few millennia, and the two ancient and civilized nations have always set up win-win paths and strategies to benefit from each other's capacities in different historical periods.

One day this civilized relationship was formed on a commercial route called Silk Road, and another day through meeting each other's economic and strategic needs.

The minister views China, which has turned into the second largest economy in the world through "rapid economic growth", and Iran as a "peaceful power" that is gifted with special geographical position as complementary. Gifted with such a unique geographical location coupled with its abundant economic potential has gradually turned Iran into a gate between China and Southwest Asia and even Europe.

China's Belt and Road Initiative has a lot in common with the strategy of President Raisi's government to develop all-round relations with neighbors and allies, which can lead to serious openings in various economic fields between the two countries by relying on existing capacities.

Last year, Iran-China's 25-year agreement officially entered the implementation phase, and the results of the cooperation will be achieved soon.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran should not put its all eggs in China's basket

Hassan Beheshtipour, a political analyst, refers to President Raisi's visit to China and writes: Iran should formulate its relations with China based on national interests and not put all its eggs in China's basket.

It is important that the president of Iran visited China after 20 years. One of the issues that will definitely be discussed in the trip is Iran-China 25-year cooperation plan.

This important point should be kept in mind that today East and West no longer exist in the same meaning as it was during the Cold War.

Therefore, countries and their geographical positions have nothing to do with us; what is important to us is the national interests of our country, and we should have relationship with any country that meets Iran's national interests.

Unlike Russia and Iran which are competitors in the oil and gas markets, China needs Iranian oil and Iran needs income from oil exports.

Also, Iran can buy goods from China that other countries refuse to sell to it, but Iran must develop comprehensive relations with others.

Javan: Trend of Iran-China relations has been upward

Javan writes: The relations between Iran and China have been among the most stable relations over the past four decades, and the curve of relations between the two countries has always been on the rise.

The signing of a 25-year partnership agreement between the two countries is the maximum level of mutual trust and the long-term

attitude of the two countries in their relations.

The two countries emphasize moving within the framework of the strategy of looking to the East and transferring hegemony from the West to the East, and they believe that order based on Eastern values and norms should return to international relations.

Today, China and Iran are trying to prepare a new multilateral order centered on the Eastern powers by leaving behind the current unipolar order headed by the United States.

Therefore, China as a great economic power along with Iran and Russia are trying to shape the main angles of the future global management system.

According to the two countries, this goal will be achieved when the level of their relations rises above the current situation and is defined and adjusted at a strategic level to provide the necessary conditions for cooperation.

Resalat: Why should we not lose the opportunity for effective synergy with China?

Resalat also discusses the Iranian president's visit to China and writes: The purpose of the visit is to further realize and fully consolidate the broad strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing in the framework of a macro and strategic understanding.

Referring to the West and its allies' policy against the Islamic Republic, and the U.S. attempt to destroy the entire Iranian political system, the columnist says: The case is also true of China. The intensification of the disputes between Washington and Beijing, which we can see in the anti-China agreement between the United States, England, and Australia aka. AUKUS, or the formation of a new security-intelligence war between the two sides, shows that the United States is uneasy with the Chinese hegemony in the international system.

Under such a condition, "strategic synergy" between Tehran and Beijing can be both for "gaining mutual benefit" and for "cooperation against common enemy."

Khorasan: Tehran-Beijing relations and its enemy

The Khorasan newspaper examines the president's visit to China in an article and writes: This trip had two messages:

Firstly, Iran wanted to show with this maneuver that it is not isolated in foreign policy and against Western pressures and restrictions; secondly, this was a move towards the implementation of the most important bilateral cooperation document, known as Iran-China's 25-year comprehensive plan.

In another part of the analysis, the daily writes: The signing of the 25-year agreement between Iran and China has enemies, the most important of which is the U.S. to intensify Iran's isolation.

The Americans are trying to prevent the implementation of the document by any means, and in the meantime, not reviving the JCPOA and not removing the sanctions are considered major obstacles to achieving the goals of the Iran-China strategic cooperation.

First trial session for Shah Cheragh terrorist attack held



TEHRAN- The Islamic Revolution Court of Shiraz on Wednesday held the first trial session for perpetrators of the Shah Cheragh terrorist attack.

It is worth saying that it was held at the presence of the defendants and their lawyers, parents and a group of witnesses of the horrible incident.

Fars province's head of justice department stated that 5 persons have been indicted in the

terrorist attack on the shrine.

On October 26, 2022, a gunman entered the shrine and mowed down at visitors, leaving 13 people dead, including children, and 30 more injured. The gunman and his accomplices come from the neighboring countries.

He underlined that those responsible for such a devilish murder are linked to the Daesh terrorist group.

They formed a group when they were locked up in Bagram prison in Afghanistan.

During the trial session, the mastermind of the incident, named Mohammad Ramez Shahidi, was summoned to detail about how he alongside with the other accomplices moved to the city to launch the terrorist attack.

The prosecutor's representative listed the charges before the defendants as corruption, sedition, membership in Daesh, as well as gathering and collusion with the intention of acting against the country's security.

from page 1 ► "A new world is evolving and replacing the previous one," he said, adding, "the new world demands an up-to-date order where a fair and just order will therefore develop and true multilateralism, maximal synergy, solidarity, and disassociation from unilateralism will thrive more than ever."

In his assertion that Asia is at the core of recent global trends, he emphasized that safeguarding and advancing peace throughout the vast continent is not only a matter of choice but a categorical necessity.

Raisi pointed out that Iran's military might is focused on maintaining peace and stability in other nations and will only be used to fend off hazards from hegemonic powers.

Iran's victory over global crises like terrorism and extremism in West Asia were among strategic accomplishments, the president added.

Raisi also praised the centuries-old ties between Tehran and Beijing, noting that Iran created a favorable environment for the development and welfare brought about by the Silk Road, which allowed China to formally join the international community.

President Raisi went on to say that as the most significant route, the Silk Road not only facilitated commerce and collabo-

Beijing, Tehran continue to cooperate on fundamental issues: Chinese FM

TEHRAN- Qin Gang, the Foreign Minister of China, said on Wednesday that Tehran and Beijing should keep collaborating on matters affecting their shared interests.

In a meeting with his Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian who was accompanying President Raisi in visit to China, Qin noted that the presidents of China and Iran had productive discussions the day before.

He added that the conversations had produced a significant and wide-ranging consensus and had given the bilateral relations a powerful boost.

Qin stated that China is willing to cooperate with Iran to increase their practical collaboration and people-to-people contacts.

China, he continued, would also seek to put into practice the agreements made at the presidents' meeting on Tuesday and will work to advance the comprehensive strategic cooperation between both countries.

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Wednesday blasted the U.S. for including support for terrorists in its foreign policy and urged Washington to quit meddling in Iran's internal affairs.

Writing on his Twitter account, Kanaani said assisting terrorists and criminals form an essential component of the U.S. foreign policy.

He furthered that "the Zionist regime, which is the pinnacle of organized terrorism, the terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), and the criminal members and torturers of SAVAK—the secret police, domestic security, and intelligence service in Iran during the Pahlavi regime—all received di-



New world order emerging with Asia at core, Raisi says

ration among many nations, but it also functioned as a cultural thread and tied various communities together throughout history.

He also praised China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), highlighting that Iran and China have once again reiterated their dedication to strengthen friendship and take decisive steps toward

homogeneous growth, strategic partnership, and an encouraging and flourishing future for humankind with the revival of this initiative in the modern world.

The president of Peking University, Hao Ping, also bestowed an honorary academic title to President Raisi in honor of his contributions to the improvement of ties between Iran and

China as well as the advancement of regional and global peace and stability.

The university's dean, faculty members, and students attended the event.

In addition, four Peking University professors were awarded for their services to Iranian studies and teaching the Persian language.



operation plan would produce more fruitful outcomes.

Iran's chief diplomat and his counterpart also spoke on the most recent developments surrounding the talks to resurrect the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He also praised China's positive contribution to the JCPOA renewal negotiations.

Iran slams U.S. officials for aiding terrorists



rect and ongoing support from the United States."

The spokesman added the Iranian people urge Washington to stop backing criminals and terrorists and avoid making interference in Iran and end the "cruel" sanctions on the people.

"The Iranian nation's clear message to the U.S.: Stop supporting the criminals and ter-

rorists, interference in the internal affairs of Iran, and the cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation," Kanaani tweeted.

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution endorsing the terrorist MKO, which was denounced by the Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian as evidence of Washington's unquenchable thirst for using terrorism to destroy Iran.

On February 7, the U.S. House introduced a resolution backing what it referred to as the Iranian people's yearning for a democratic and secular state.

After the resolution was announced, the terrorist organization's leader attended a press conference in the U.S. House.

The MKO, which has committed various acts of terrorism including bombings in public places and targeted assassinations, is responsible for the deaths of more than 17,000 Iranians, many of whom were civilians.

Classified as a terrorist group by the global community, the MKO escaped Iran in 1986 and went to Iraq, where former Iraqi despot Saddam Hussein handed them a camp to continue their heinous actions.

During Iraq's imposed war on Iran in 1980s, they served on Saddam's side.

They also participated in the deadly persecution of Shia Muslims in southern Iraq in 1991, as well as the slaughter of Iraqi Kurds in the north.

The West's impetus to resurrect JCPOA still in question: Russian envoy

from page 1 ► "The question is to what extent the U.S. and E3 are committed to revitalization of the nuclear deal and maintaining nuclear non-proliferation. This is a big question mark as of today," Ulyanov noted.

Additionally, he said that the U.S. and E3 —France, Britain, and Germany — might be pursuing a "clandestine goal" in this respect.

Iran, Russia, and China have consistently laid the responsibility for the deadlock in negotiations on Western nations.

Iran demonstrated the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the JCPOA with six nations in 2015: the U.S., Germany, France, United Kingdom, Russia, and China.



However, the deal's survival was uncertain following Washington's unilateral departure in May 2018 and its consequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran.

In April 2021, talks between the deal's parties began in Vienna with the goal of

bringing the U.S. back on track to spell the end to Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Tehran believes that the U.S. must provide guarantees that it won't withdraw from or break the agreement again if it is revived.

Tehran's scrupulous adherence to the nuclear deal has been confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) multiple times.

The talks, nevertheless, have been stalled since August 2022 due to Washington's refusal to waive all the sanctions imposed on Tehran by the prior administration and provide the essential guarantees.

Historic turnout

Ayatollah Khamenei hails mass rallies on revolution birthday as ‘historic’

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has lauded the rallies held on February 11 to mark the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution as a “historic” event that showed popular support for the political establishment.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with thousands of people from Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, on Wednesday.

In the meeting, he greatly admired the Iranian nation for their “historic” turnout in this year’s mass rallies to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. “This real, passionate and meaningful epic is the result of the nation’s persistence and not getting deviated from the path of the Revolution,” he said, according to a readout by khamenei.ir.

“This path of progress and power will continue with national unity and with a revolutionary perspective toward problems, that is, relying on the efforts that brought about the achievements of the Revolution,” Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

The Leader further hailed the people’s “invaluable” participation during the rallies on the 22nd of Bahman (February 11) despite the enemies’ massive propaganda campaign, the problems faced by the people, the cold weather and other discouraging factors.

“People with faith and insight ignored all these and came together from east to west and from north to south of beloved Iran and raised their voice so that everyone could hear,” he said, adding that only God is able to really appreciate this great national movement.

He referred to “the nation’s historic Saturday” as an example



of the continuation of national persistence and once again drew comparisons between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and other revolutions which gradually deviated from their ideals, saying, “In the Islamic Revolution, too, some people turned away from the direct path of the Revolution due to various reasons, and they eventually acted against the principles and ideals of the Revolution.”

“Contrary to these elements, the nation continued the straight path without feeling fatigued and despair and without fearing the enemy’s blows, threats and screams, while preserving its identity, character and greatness,” he said. “In this path, [the nation] came to the streets across the entire country on the 22nd of Bahman of this year and, with different motivations, showed its meaningful perseverance and stubbornness against the enemy.”

The Leader of the Revolution pointed out that the enemy and some elements inside the country are making efforts to weaken the determination of the Iranian nation in an attempt to make the people forget the path of the Revolution. “One of the important goals of the autumn riots was to make the people forget the 22nd of Bahman. Inside the country, some were following the same line in the newspapers and on

social media with weak arguments and incorrect statements. The people, however, disappointed them,” he added.

The people’s attendance and analysis were some of the characteristics of the magnificent 22nd of Bahman rally that the Leader applauded. “It was clear from people’s interviews that they attended the march with an analytical mind. And because they understood that the US is fearful of their attendance, they demonstrated their actual orientation, which is to fully support the Islamic Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic with passion, exuberance, motivation and meaningful slogans,” he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the American and Zionist media empires are attempting to prevent this loud voice from reaching the ears of other nations. However, those who need to hear it, that is, the policy makers in the US and England and the enemy’s spy agencies have definitely heard this voice.

The Leader of the Revolution also pointed out the propaganda uproar that took place on social media and the enemy’s media outlets on the eve of the 22nd of Bahman. “There were opposing voices that these media outlets tried to magnify, but the voice and call of the nation prevailed

over all other voices,” he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei also spoke about “clarifying the falseness and weakness of the enemies’ claims about the Islamic Republic.”

“Sometimes they blatantly lie and say that the government is regressing, while the country, despite its problems, has completely changed from the way it was two or three decades ago. It has made great progress. Sometimes they say that the Islamic Republic has reached a dead end. When someone reaches an impasse, they will fall to the ground on their own. So, if this claim is correct, then why are you spending so much to knock them down?”

The Leader of the Revolution underlined that insisting on progress does not equate to denying the weaknesses. He pointed out that all nations have certain weaknesses, referring to the important weaknesses that exist in some of the world’s largest and most advanced countries. The Leader added that, “the solution to remove the weaknesses is not to destroy the principle and roots, but the correct approach is to remove the weaknesses based on the Revolutionary view.”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that economic growth and curbing inflation are the most important tasks that need to be attended to. He underlined that everyone, especially the country’s officials have a duty to engage in jihadi activities and they need to consistently work round the clock. In this regard, the Leader stated, “Economic affairs need to be prioritized today because the country cannot advance forward without economic growth. Economic growth itself requires stability, control of inflation and price stability.”

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Handball federation ready to continue with Veselin Vujovic

From Page 1 ► “Iran’s handball has the potential to improve, but the president of the federation always says that money is the main problem. The National Team players and coaches should have better facilities to work with. If Iran’s handball wants to change, the handball officials’ attitude must change first,” said Vujovic in his recent press conference.

“I’m ready to renew my contract but not with the previous conditions. There is no problem with the financial issues for me, but other issues should be solved,” he added.

However, one of the officials of the handball federation believes that there is a mutual agreement to extend the head coach’s contract.

“Mr. Vujovic has said that he just needed some time to relax and wants to with his family,” said the official to Tehran Times.

“There is no disagreement between the president of the handball federation and the head coach of the national team. There have been positive negotiations between both parties and only some little issues are yet to be discussed,” he added.

“The federation has tried its best to satisfy the head coach financially and in terms of facilities as well. We also have set the goals for the upcoming tournaments including the 2022 Asian Games, the 2024 Olympics qualification, and the Asian Championship. The federation is determined to extend Veselin Vujovic’s contract and continue the successful run of the national team with this great coach,” he concluded.

Iran to send 700 athletes to 2022 Asian Games: official

TEHRAN – Manaf Hashemi, Secretary General of the Iran’s National Olympic Committee (NOC), says that the committee will send between 700 and 800 sportspersons to the 2022 Asian Games.

The 19th Asian Games, also known as Hangzhou 2022, will be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8.

Iran sent 378 sportspersons to Jakarta, Indonesia for the 2018 Asian Games and earned 20 gold, 20 silver and 22 bronze medals.

“In the previous edition, we finished sixth and look for a better place in the upcoming edition,” Hashemi said.

“In the 2014 Asian Games, we came fifth while we had finished in fourth place in the 2010 edition. It shows that how difficult the Games are and we want to keep our place and even think about a better place in Hangzhou,” he added.

“Next Monday, we will finalize the participating teams and athletes as we have already started registration,” Hashemi concluded.

The 2022 Asian Games, officially known as the 19th Asian Games, also known as Hangzhou 2022, will be a multi-sport event celebrated in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China.

Hangzhou will be the third Chinese city to host the Asian Games, after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010.

Teams learn fate at World Wrestling Clubs Cup

TEHRAN – The participating teams in the seventh edition of the World Wrestling Clubs Cup discovered their opponents in the competition.

Iran’s Shahr Bank, Georgia and Kazakhstan are drawn in Group A.

Group B consists of India, Armenia and Russia freestyle wrestling teams.

The competition will be held in Tehran, capital of Iran on February 17-18.

World Wrestling Clubs Cup is an international wrestling club competition among teams representing member nations of the United World Wrestling (UWW) the sport’s global governing body.

The tournament was held on the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran Wrestling Federation in 2014 in Iran.

Poursalman elected as president of Iran fencing federation

TEHRAN –Alireza Poursalman was elected unopposed as president of Iran fencing federation on Monday for a four-year term till 2027.

In the elections held at the Iran’s Academy Olympic in Tehran, Poursalman secured 50 votes out of 50 votes cast.

He replaced Fazlollah Bagherzadeh who led the federation for 12 years.

Bagherzadeh will serve as vice president in the fencing federation.

Hamid Motahari steps down as Nassaji coach

TEHRAN – Hamid Motahari stepped down from his post as head coach of Nassaji football team.

Nassaji lost to Mes Kerman 2-1 in Matchday 20 of the Iran Professional League on Tuesday.

The 49-year-old coach had been named as Nassaji coach in June 2022 but was forced to leave the club following poor results.

Under his leadership, Nassaji sit 10th in the 16-team table with five wins, seven draws and eight losses.

Nassaji club have not yet reacted to Motahari’s resignation.

Iran Sports Minister Sajadi meets Russian counterpart Matytsin

TEHRAN – Iran Sports Minister Hamid Sajadi met his Russian counterpart Oleg Matytsin in the sports ministry headquarters on Wednesday.

Matytsin along with his accompanying delegation has traveled to Tehran to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral sports cooperation.

“It’s such an honor to be here in Tehran. I am grateful for all the cooperation that Iran has had with Russia in the field of sports,” Matytsin said.

“I am sure a bright future is in front of Russia and Iran countries. In the current situation, where Russian sports suffer cruel sanctions, countries like Iran have helped Russia neutralize the effect of these pressures,” he added.

“Russia hopes for the participation of Iranian athletes in the Future Games, which will be held in Kazan in March 2024,” Matytsin stated.

“Special attention is paid to Paralympic sports in Russia and we are ready to cooperate with Iran in this field as well. We also want to cooperate with Iran in the infrastructure development and ask Russian companies to collaborate with Iran in this regard,” the Russian sports minister concluded.

Iran football team to play Russia in March

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will play a friendly match with Russia in late March.

Head of Iran football federation Mehdi Taj said the friendly will be held in Tehran on March 22 or 23.

Russian team Zenit will also play Iranian club Sepahan in Isfahan’s Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium on Friday.

The Russian women football team will travel to Tehran to play Team Melli Banovan, Taj added.

Iran’s Sports Minister Hamid Sajad welcomed his Russian counterpart Oleg Matytsin on Wednesday in Tehran.

Collective security ensures interests of regional countries: envoy

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Irani has underlined the need for maintaining collective security in the Persian Gulf region without interference of foreign powers.

Irani explained the role of Iran in solving complex regional issues and emphasized the importance of the collective participation of the regional countries in ensuring their security without foreign interference and considered this action as a guarantee of the security and sustainable interests of all regional countries.

He made the remarks during a ceremony held at the Iranian embassy in Kuwait to mark the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of 1979. A group of scholars, representatives of parliament and city council, ambassadors of Islamic and foreign countries, members of the Iran-Kuwait Friendship Association and a number of social, political and cultural personalities of this country, in addition to a number of Iranians living in Kuwait, attended this ceremony, and congratulated the ambassador on the arrival of this auspicious occasion, according to Iran’s official news agency IRNA.

In his speech, the Iranian ambassador explained the most important achievements of the Islamic

Revolution. “Forty-four years ago on this day, one of the most popular revolutions of the 20th century took place in Iran. Based on the role and presence of the people in the social and political arena of the country, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, it removed the dictatorial and foreign-dependent regime from the political scene of Iran,” the ambassador said.

He then addressed the security situation in the region, saying that collective security without foreign interference ensures the interests of the region’s countries.

He also said that Iran-Kuwait relations are returning to normalcy after the Covid-19 denouement. “My country’s relations with the friendly and neighboring government of Kuwait are gradually returning to their normal course after the difficult period of Corona,” he said, adding that “we witnessed the holding of commissions on consular, legal, coast guard and counter-narcotics issues, and these developments are due to the will of the leaders of the two countries to deepen these historical relations.”

Iran and Kuwait upgraded their ties in 2022. In August last year, Kuwait promoted diplomatic

relations with Iran to ambassadorial level after more than six years.

Kuwait reduced diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016 to the level of charges d’affaires. Two years later, Kuwait also recalled its charge d’affaires from Tehran.

The decision to lower diplomatic ties followed an attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran by a group of angry protestors in early January 2016 over the execution of 47 activists, including cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.

After the attack on the embassy, which was even censured by the top officials in Tehran, the Saudi kingdom cut diplomatic ties with Iran. Other Persian Gulf Arab countries also followed Saudi Arabia and lowered diplomatic ties with Iran.

However, political ties between Iran and its southern regional neighbors are being improved, especially after Iran and the Saudi kingdom have so far been holding five rounds of talks in Baghdad.

Kuwait’s new ambassador to Tehran, Badr Abdullah al-Munikh, met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and submitted a copy of his credentials to him.

outstanding mutual ties that are based on the strategic approach of the top officials of the two countries and briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the latest developments of the political process for the resolution of the crisis in Syria.

Khaji and Sosan also discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations as well as Syria’s political and international developments, according to the Foreign Ministry.

They underlined the need to strengthen bilateral ties and coordination more than ever before in the regional and international arenas.

Sosan also highlighted the

Iran envoy meets Syria deputy FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mehd Sobhani has met with Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Ayman Sosan, IRNA reported.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties and the latest developments in the West Asia region and the world.

In January, Sosan travelled to Tehran where he met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Ali Asghar Khaji, the senior advisor to Iranian foreign minister for special political affairs.

Amir Abdollahian and Sosan discussed the expansion of bilateral

ties and the latest developments in Syria and the region, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahian underlined the significance of the outstanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria and the close cooperation of the two countries to establish stability, security and peace in the region.

The Iranian foreign minister also reiterated the necessity of upgrading the ties between the two countries in different spheres and described

expansion of cooperation in the field of economy as an inevitable necessity for both countries to best exploit their existing capabilities.

During the meeting, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Ayman Sosan also honored the memory of martyr General Qassem Soleimani and his special role in fighting terrorism in Syria and the region and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support to Syria against terrorism and extremism and for its help in the political resolution of the crisis in Syria.

Sosan also highlighted the

of the Republic of Kazakhstan Bauyrzhan Akatayev chaired the event, the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the cancellation of 14-day visas for the citizens of the two countries, emphasizing the need to further increase communications and flight routes between the two countries.

During the session, a wide range of issues including citizenship, students’ affairs, prisoners’

Iran, Kazakhstan sign MOU for promotion of consular ties

TEHRAN – The consular chiefs of Iran and Kazakhstan have signed a memorandum of understanding to boost consular ties.

The signing took place during the 10th session of the joint consular commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was held in Tehran.

Alireza Mahmoudi, Director General of Consular Affairs at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Director of the Department of Consular Service

112 water, electricity projects to go operational in Iran by late March



TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has said his ministry is going to put 112 major water and electricity projects into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Mehrabian made the remarks in a ministry event on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The official underlined the sustained supply of water and electricity as a main goal of his ministry, saying that implementing consumption management programs and developing the supply networks are the two axes for realizing this goal.

TSE's main index expected to start rising towards yearend: expert

TEHRAN – An stock market analyst believes that the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TEDPIX) is expected to follow an upward trend in the last month of the current Iranian calendar year (February 20–March 20).

“Now the stock market is in a good position for investment, and paying attention to the issues affecting the stock market can help in the improvement and prosperity of this market,” Majid Mohammad-Alizadeh told IRNA on Wednesday.

He pointed to the recent fluctuations in the stock market and the factors affecting it, saying: “The lack of trust and confidence as well as the uncertainty of the investors in the capital market caused them to be more cautious and reduced their sense of risk-taking to a great extent which disrupted the upward trend of the stock market.”

According to the expert, rumors and false news, intrusive and non-expert comments, and numerous redundant bills passed by parliament have also contributed to the uncertainty in investors’ decision-making.

Mohammad-Alizadeh further pointed to other influential factors in the withdrawal of liquidity from the stock market and said: “The attractiveness of parallel markets has also caused the withdrawal of liquidity from the stock market and has pushed investors towards parallel markets.”

“The combination of all these factors has caused the growth of the stock market index to slow down,” he said.

In late October 2022, Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) unveiled a comprehensive support package to encourage activities in the capital market as shareholders were getting reluctant to invest in the market.

One of the major measures considered in this package was the insurance of shareholders’ capital and dividends over the



next year.

Insuring the shares of real entities, issuing subordinated warrants on shares of fixed income, injecting new resources into the market by sovereign funds to buy shares, depositing up to \$130 million of the resources approved in the national budget bill for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund, as well as direct and continuous coordination, supervision and monitoring of the legal entities active in the capital market, including companies and semi-governmental financial institutions, pension funds and military institutions were among the measures considered in the mentioned support package.

The package also stressed cooperation between the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to manage the interest rates.

Increasing SEO’s direct investment in Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund, limiting the activities of marketers, and suspending the underwriting of securities and initial offerings until further notice, were also among the issues considered in SEO’s support package.

Following this support package, the market started a modest upward trend in November and early December 2022, but the upward trend was once again hindered by various internal and external factors.

Referring to the addition of many lands to industrial estates last year, Ali Rasoulion noted: “This year, we focused on providing infrastructure for these lands, and infrastructure was provided for 2,151 hectares of lands.”

He then mentioned the establishment of joint industrial estates with other countries, and said the initial negotiations were conducted with Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and recently Armenia, but if these joint industrial estates are to be established at the border zero point, there is a need to change the laws and regulations and it must be approved in the parliament.

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).

44 idle production units revived in Qom province since last March

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 44 idle production units were revived in Qom province in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21, 2022).

Mohsen Omidian, the deputy governor-general of Qom for economic affairs coordination, said the mentioned units returning to the production cycle has created direct jobs for 600 persons.

As recently announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), 1,191 idle production units have been revived in the industrial estates and zones of the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year.

TEDPIX loses 13,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 13,166 points to 1.524 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 6.564 billion securities worth 38.738 trillion rials (about \$97 million) were traded at the TSE.

Greenhouse development, a major plan of Agriculture Ministry in resistance economy

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran’s greenhouse development plan has been approved and announced as one of the key and priority projects of the Ministry of Agriculture in the resistance economy program.

According to this plan, which is one of the most complete development programs of the country in the field of agriculture, it is required to change the cultivation place of vegetables and other crops, that can be cultivated in controlled areas, from open spaces to greenhouses during a 10-year program, and also plan for the diversity of crop cultivation, especially for the production of tropical crops that are needed by the country, in the greenhouses.

Cultivation in the controlled space of the greenhouse will have an average of 10 times higher yield per unit area than outdoor cultivation due to suitable environmental conditions.

For example, in the case of cucumber, each square meter in the greenhouse will have a production capacity of 20 kilograms of cucumber, while compared to an outdoor production, the production capacity of one square meter of arable land will be much lower and about two kilograms.



Significant reduction in water consumption in modern greenhouses is in fact the major advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to the closed environment, water loss through various evaporation ways is greatly reduced. Also, through mechanized irrigation methods such as irrigation canvas and irrigation tape, water consumption is minimized.

Increased control over pests, weeds, and diseases is the other

advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to accurate monitoring and control of pests and diseases, especially the use of biological control methods and a sharp reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, we will see an increase in product quality, that will lead to the popularity of the product in the market and increase export capability.

As a result, along with preserving the soil and environment, we will see good foreign currency income.

Greenhouses should be established on 125,000 hectares of land in country

On Tuesday, Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad said that currently, there are about 25,000 hectares of greenhouses in Iran, and another 125,000 hectares of greenhouses are needed to be created in the country.

Referring to the country’s need to create greenhouses on 125,000 hectares of land, the minister said: “To create this level of greenhouses, we need the support of investors and people, and the government also helps them in the field of facilities.”

Referring to the president’s emphasis on the transfer of vegetable cultivation from open spaces to greenhouses, Sadati-Nejad added: “To implement this and boost water efficiency, we must have 150,000 hectares of greenhouses in the country.”

“We are trying to support investors in the creation of greenhouses; in this regard, a working group has been created so that we can lighten and cheapen greenhouse structures, and by locating them in the country, we can identify suitable climatic capacities that match the ecology of the region”, the official further stated.

Tehran, Beijing take new steps to develop all-out economic ties

from page 1 ► President Raisi on his visit to China, said that the Chinese president is interested in Iranian agricultural, food, and dairy products, and such products can conquer China’s one-billion markets more than ever.

Speaking to IRNA on Tuesday, Sadati-Nejad referred to signing a number of cooperation documents in the agriculture field with China, adding, “Today three agriculture documents were signed with China, two of which is about exporting Iranian dairy products to China and one is on exporting apples to that country.”

The agriculture minister also referred to exporting citrus fruits, honey, and fish to China during President Raisi’s tenure, arguing that the Iranian agricultural products are now conquering the large Chinese markets.

“The agreements in the agricultural field between Iran and China had been finalized during the previous months’ negotiations; in order to boost production we need to mechanize our agriculture and focus on the value chains, as well as the food processing industries, research in inquiries, and China is ready for making investments in Iran in those fields,” he added.

Development in investment ties

Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, who was also among the president’s companions, has referred to the meeting between the presidents of the two countries and expressed hope that this meeting will lead to tangible growth in economic exchanges and mutual investment between the



two countries in the coming years.

NIOC, Sinopec in talks for Yadavaran oilfield phase 2

The director of investment and business of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has also said that NIOC has held regular negotiations with China’s Sinopec Company regarding the second phase of the Yadavaran oil field’s development project.

In an interview with Shana, Fereydoon Kurd-Zanganeh said, “Despite the sanctions, NIOC, in line with the strategic document of long-term cooperation between Iran and China, continues to negotiate with the private and state companies of this country for the development of Yadavaran field and other joint fields in Iran.”

He noted that the first phase of Yadavaran oil field was already completed by Sinopec in 2015 with a capacity of 110,000 barrels per day and is productive.

“According to the negotiations with this company, the second phase of the development of

this joint field was also planned to be handed over to this company, but unfortunately, at that time, the former oil minister stopped the negotiations, therefore, in the past year, NIOC has conducted regular negotiations with Chinese companies in the development of oil and gas fields.”

The investment and business manager of NIOC emphasized that Sinopec has not yet announced in any way that it will not cooperate in the development of Yadavaran field, adding: “The officials negotiating with this company at NIOC are looking for new ways to use the investment opportunity in Yadavaran Oilfield.”

Iran-China trade can be tripled

Mentioning the visit of President Raisi to China, Majid-Reza Hariri, the president of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries, has said that considering the opportunities presented by the two countries’ 25-year strategic agreement, the trade between Iran and China can be increased by three-fold.

“In the worst conditions created by sanctions, our trade with the Chinese reached about 24 billion dollars, and we can increase this figure by at least three times, Hariri said.

Member of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade Ruhollah Latifi has also said that China was Iran’s top trade partner in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023) with 29.2 million tons of goods worth \$25.3 billion being exchanged between the two sides.

Over 7,000 MW to be added to Iran’s power generation capacity by late June

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry’s Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said the country’s electricity generation capacity is going to increase by 7,778 megawatts (MW) by the beginning of summer (June 22) in order to meet the hot season’s peak demand, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the press on Monday, Rajabi Mashhadi noted that the Energy Ministry has defined 140 executive programs for ensuring the sustained supply of electricity during the summer’s peak consumption period.

According to the official, the mentioned programs have been classified into three main categories

including the development of power plant capacity, the development of the electricity network, and the promotion of consumption management strategies.

Rajabi Mashhadi noted that based on the programs defined for the development of power plant capacity, new power plants with a total capacity of 6,000 MW will be constructed and the rest of the abovementioned figure will be provided through implementing overhaul programs and improving the efficiency of the existing power plants.

The official further noted that the overhaul operations are already underway for 107,000 MW of the

country’s power plants and the program has progressed by 60 percent.

Back in November 2021, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that the construction of 10,000 MW capacity power plants had been started by various industrial sectors across the country, saying: “Four major industries have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if they cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule.”

Over the past decade, constant

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

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

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

Ashgabat hosting exclusive exhibit of Iranian products

TEHRAN- The 15th exclusive exhibition of Iranian products kicked off in Turkmenistan’s capital city Ashgabat on Wednesday and will wrap up on Friday.

The inaugural ceremony of the exhibit was

attended by Iranian Labor and Social Welfare Minister Solat Mortazavi as well as some Turkmen officials.

The exhibition is participated by more than 90 Iranian companies active in the fields of

agriculture and food industry, construction industry, cement, oil and energy, petrochemical products, auto parts, technical and engineering services, medicine and medical equipment.

Iran, Zimbabwe inks co-op document to expand economic ties

TEHRAN- Iran and Zimbabwe have signed a cooperation document on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of the two countries’ Joint Economic Committee, IRNA reported.

Iran’s Trade Promotion

Organization (TPO) and ZIM Trade inked the comprehensive document with the aim of improving the trade relations between the two countries.

The ninth meeting of the two countries’ Joint Economic Committee

was held in Tehran on February 6.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the end of the mentioned meeting to expand economic cooperation.

The comprehensive document was signed by Iranian Labor and Social Welfare Minister Solat Mortazavi and Zimbabwe’s Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister Frederick Shava.

NATO arms for Ukraine depleted!

From page 1 ▶ “For example,” he noted “the waiting time for large-calibre ammunition has increased from 12 to 28 months. Orders placed today would only be delivered two-and-a-half years later. So we need to ramp up production, and invest in our production capacity.”

The West, with the United States in particular, has already shipped tens of billions of dollars worth of military assistance to the warzone in an attempt for Ukraine to retake control of the eastern Donbas region.

This is the same Donbas region in the country where ethnic Russians have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014, leading to at least 14,000 deaths as well as the failure of Kyiv to take control of the region.

Since Russia launched what it described as a “special military operation” in February 2022, citing multiple security concerns, the focus of the battle has been mostly based in the same eastern and southeastern regions of Ukraine.

As members of the so-called U.S.-led Ukraine Defense Contact Group met in Brussels to address the arms assistance crisis to Ukraine, they are facing pressure to speed up delivery and provide even more sophisticated weapons to Ukrainian forces.

But this is no easy task with Ukraine still waiting for the promises of battle tanks and warplanes. These calls have faced hesitation from Kyiv's Western allies who don't want to risk direct confrontation with Russia amid political hurdles and challenges back home.

“The essential question is: What do they want to do with planes? It's not clear,” a French diplomat, who was unauthorized to speak publicly, told Politico. “Do they think that with 50 or 100 fighter jets, they can retake the Donbas?” the diplomat asked.

In response to a question about the U.S. providing fighter jets to Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said “in terms of whether or not we're going to provide F-16s, I don't have any announcements to make. I don't have anything to add to what our president said earlier. I'll just leave it at that.”

Experts say the war could have been easily avoided and flashpoint territories where ethnic Russians reside could have been settled



without the eruption of further violence eight years later.

Russia argues the shipments of weapons to Ukraine are prolonging the war and suffering of Ukrainians.

But Stoltenberg appears adamant for the war to drag on, saying NATO has conducted research for each member's munitions and is in the process of planning targets to increase the member states' stockpiles for more munitions.

Critics of the war argue that with the first anniversary of the conflict approaching and with all the Western weapons that have been shipped to Ukraine so far, can the U.S.-led military alliance contain Russia?

And with Kyiv in urgent need of more military aid, the question is where exactly is this war heading and which parties are making lucrative profits at the expense of others.

Western arms manufacturers and U.S. gas firms have been making a lot of money whilst households in Western Europe have faced record inflation levels after the West slapped sanctions on cheap Russian energy supplies that Western Europe was heavily dependent on.

As the war shows no signs of ending, surveys indicate European households are growing increasingly wary about the conflict amid a cost of living crisis back home.

Nevertheless, the United States and NATO have pledged (in public) that Western military support will not lose momentum.

Cracks among NATO states have also emerged over the shipment of

more advanced arms with debates around sending certain types of weapons, most notably tanks, resulting in high-level diplomatic spats.

Reports say the information war is extremely sensitive at this moment in time as it's difficult to gauge the exact figures on exactly how much munition each NATO member has left and not replaced.

It might explain why Stoltenberg had to travel to South Korea and Japan to ask Seoul and Tokyo to ship weapons in addition to pleading with Latin American countries to make military contributions as well.

Richard Shirreff, a retired British Army general and NATO's former deputy supreme allied commander in Europe, told CNN: “This is critical to national and European security. You don't want to demonstrate your vulnerabilities to any potential aggressor. But at the same time, people need to understand that this is serious, something has to be done urgently.”

“All of the NATO countries must take a serious strategic look at this. We might be at the stage where we need to tell bicycle manufacturers to pivot and start making ammunition. The only way we are going to get back on track is to prepare for the worst case, which means relearning lessons from the Cold War to avoid another world war,” Shirreff added.

There is certainly a concern in the U.S.-led military alliance over the looming ammunition crisis as it did not anticipate Russia to hold on to the frontlines so firmly for so long.

CNN has reported that even the biggest supplier of weapons

to Ukraine and the world's top military exporter, the United States, is having trouble keeping up with the arms supply demand.

As Stoltenberg warns that Kyiv is using up its ammunition far faster than its allies can provide, estimates suggest Ukrainian forces are firing up to 6,000-7,000 artillery shells every day.

Reports say that during meetings with EU heads, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his senior officials gave each EU leader a special list requesting weapons and equipment based on the country's known stocks and capabilities.

“The first thing on the list was, everywhere, the ammunition,” Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas has been cited as saying.

“If you have the equipment and you don't have the ammunition, then it's no use,” the Estonian leader added.

And the West is by all accounts low on ammunition in their arsenal.

“It is clear that we are in a race of logistics,” Stoltenberg told reporters. “Key capabilities like ammunition, fuel, and spare parts must reach Ukraine before Russia can seize the initiative on the battlefield.”

“Ukraine has urgent requirements to help it meet this crucial moment in the course of the war,” Austin added.

NATO deputy assistant secretary general Jamie Shea also said NATO had “largely used up the available stocks” and this meant it “had to persuade its defence industries to go back to opening up the production lines” and to produce the stock at scale and quickly.

Asked if it would be possible to do this, Shea added, “It's not going to be easy, but there is a push going on.”

“While we get production ramped up if we can persuade some of these other sorts of pro-Western countries beyond NATO to provide these types of munitions that should help to fill the gap in the meantime.”

What may prove risky for NATO is that it is led by the United States and history proves the Pentagon's foreign military adventurism has not exactly been successful in the past several decades.

On the contrary, the U.S. has waged or triggered wars which have very rarely (if ever) ended in a victory for Washington.

WORLD HEADLINES

Who should lead? Democrats, Republicans struggle to decide

While President Joe Biden and his predecessor, Donald Trump, are preparing for a possible rematch in 2024, a new poll finds a notable lack of enthusiasm within the parties for either man as his party's leader and a clear opening for new standard-bearers.

About a third of both Democrats and Republicans are unsure of who they want leading their party, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

No single Democrat captures significant support when asked who should be their party's leader; instead, Democrats sprinkle their attention across more than a dozen politicians. Yet they also feel more hopeful than dejected about their party. Some Republicans, meanwhile, coalesce around a couple of individuals — Trump included. But a majority remain uncommitted to him despite his grip on the party, and Republicans have grown somewhat more pessimistic about the GOP's future.

The findings reflect a deep sense of uncertainty about the future of the nation's political parties and the challenges both face in tethering their frayed — and perhaps disenchanted — coalitions.

For Democrats, it's another warning sign about the depth of Biden's support amid concerns about nominating someone who would be 86 at the end of a second term.

Israeli security expert behind worldwide election manipulation efforts - report

A team of Israeli contractors is responsible for having manipulated more than 30 elections around the world through hacking, sabotage and automated misinformation, The Guardian has revealed after an in-depth investigation.

In an article published early Wednesday morning, The Guardian reported that a team of Israeli operatives has been working under Israeli security expert Tal Hanan, a 50-year-old former special forces operative and CEO of Demonan International, to manipulate election outcomes in dozens of countries over the last two decades.

Working under the codename “Team Jorge,” the operatives offer their services to those looking to meddle in elections worldwide, as well as to corporate clients, the investigation revealed.

One of the key components in the team's efforts to sway election results is social media, more specifically, Twitter.

Anon-human bot by the name of @Canaelan has been found to have links to numerous fake social media profiles, all controlled by disinformation-spreading software owned by Team Jorge and based out of Israel.

N. Korean leader's daughter to be featured on new stamps

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter will be featured on stamps to be issued by the country's authorities on Friday, according to the website of state-run Korea Stamp Corp., in a move that raises the profile of Kim's potential successor.

Kim's “beloved daughter,” believed to be his second child Kim Ju Ae, who is around 10 years old, will appear in five of the eight stamps to be sold in commemoration of the successful test launch of the new “Hwasong-17” intercontinental ballistic missile last November, the website showed.

UK, US guilty of ‘crimes against humanity’ over Chagos Islands: HRW

“Britain and the United States are guilty of crimes against humanity in the forced displacement of indigenous people from the Chagos Islands,” this is what Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Wednesday almost 55 years since the UK and the US forcibly evicted Chagossians from Diego Garcia.

In a new 106-page report, HRW acknowledged that the UK's “racial persecution, and continued blocking of their return home” with Washington's support, constituted an “ongoing colonial crime.”

HRW urged the two countries to make full reparations to the Chagossian people, including the right to return to their homeland in the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

Clive Baldwin, HRW's senior legal advisor and lead author of the report, said, “The UK is today committing an appalling colonial crime, treating all Chagossians as a people without rights.”

Without US-led support, Ukrainians would have collapsed: report

“Without US support, and then... the broader European and global support, the Ukrainians would have collapsed,” considered Mark Cancian, a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“The support is absolutely vital. And continuing that support is absolutely vital,” he said.

International assistance from dozens of countries has been coordinated through the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, which first met in late April last year.

The meetings allow Ukrainian officials and military leaders to “update ministers on current battlefield dynamics and Ukrainian requirements so the international community can identify and provide Ukraine with the capabilities needed,” Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia Laura Cooper told AFP.

Did Sy Hersh's journalism spark an alien invasion?...

From page 1 ▶ The U.S. government since Hersh's report on “Sub stack” media has been trying to deflect attention by channeling it to three or four instances of balloons or other objects (an alien invasion, UFO's) borne on winds crossing over the U.S. as if such constituted any kind of real threat to the country. Breaches of U.S. sovereignty by the Chinese who, if the Chinese launched the objects, are scary? No way, but the government would have Americans think so. Even suggesting UFO's are aloft! If spying, the Chinese don't critically need to send balloons or whatever. They have an estimated 300 spy satellites in space some of which can allegedly read the license plates of cars and may be capable of even listening to phone conversations in the Oval Office in the White House.

What is particularly surprising is that given the Hersh report on Nordstream's destruction by the U.S., the German government so far has said NOTHING. And the loss of gas from Russia, cheap gas, is wrecking the once great German economy as well as Europe's. Aside from a few very scattered voices in Germany marginally ready to slam the U.S. for what President Biden and his Neocon advisors in the White House and State Department reportedly did, the Germans are acting like a bunch of SHEEP over arguably the greatest act of industrial and ecological terrorism since World War 2.

And Joe Biden's randy dementia was clear



Symour Hersh

when he stood before the American people and delivered a State of the Union Address that claimed things in the U.S were just dandy? They are not.

And then there is the matter of the massive earthquakes in Turkey and northwestern Syria. Maybe as many as 100,000 people will be found dead when all the rubble is cleared. Biden has been weak sending aid to Turkey, but nothing for Syria where the U.S. occupies a third of Syria in the east, and has been stealing some 66,000 barrels of oil per day and burning Syrian wheat and even bombing aid convoys from the east. The draconian sanctions just add more misery and Biden has refused to lift U.S. sanctions. This, frankly, is yet another U.S. crime amid many others. And don't get me started about the Netanyahu crime syndicates in Israel who are going wild in a de facto annexation of the

West Bank and bombing Gaza, too.

The Palestinians resistance fighters ought to cancel throwing rocks and shooting pistols at the marauding police and IDF soldiers in the West Bank who have been raiding refugee camps in places like Jenin and Jericho. Almost 50, a least, innocent Palestinians have been shot dead by armed forces and settlers, too, since the start of the year. And the Biden Administration has said nothing. What might be a better answer?

The Palestinians should be sent scores of well calibrated sniper rifles with fine scopes and silencers attached. They know where to hide in the warrens of the camps. The cowardly IDF would think twice about raids in the West Bank!

But what does all this add up to? The U.S. under Biden has gone berserk like never before if you exclude the Vietnam War under Lyndon Johnson, which finished Johnson's political career. Provoking the Russians to attack Ukraine and all kinds of support for corrupt Zelensky...eventually spells the final end of U.S. as any kind of “leader” and even NATO's, and all hegemonic pretensions...provided World War 3 does not erupt and a war turns nuclear. A U.S. president who brings the world so close the nuclear war for whatever reason is simply not fit to serve anywhere and deserves to stand before the ICC in The Hague.



Thousands of people participate in the annual Women's Memorial March in honour of missing and murdered women and girls in Vancouver, B.C., on Feb. 14.

Locals, travelers joyful as the ‘life-giving’ river revives



TEHRAN – Hundreds of joyful locals and travelers to Isfahan visited the Zayanderud river on Tuesday after water flowed into it following months of drought.

Once wide and mighty, Zayanderud, which literary means life-giving river, is one of Iran's main tourist attractions.

The river, which passes through Isfahan, has been coping with drought for more than a decade, causing problems for nearby farmers.

Some say, there are few better ways to

spend an afternoon than strolling along Zayanderud, crossing back and forth on the river's 11 bridges – or even meandering along the often empty riverbed itself.

Such a stroll is especially pleasant at sunset and in the early evening when most of the bridges, five of which date back to the Safavid era, are brilliantly lit.

According to Lonely Planet, all but one of the historic Safavid-era crossings lie to the east of Chahar Bagh Abbasi St – the exception is the shorter Pol-e Marnan (Marnan Bridge) – but most people satisfy themselves with the walk from Pol-e Si-o-Seh (Si-o-Seh Bridge) to Pol-e Khaju (Khaju Bridge), and back. Traditionally, visitors to the riverbanks pause their perambulations to drink tea and enjoy sceneries at one of the atmospheric teahouses on the Khaju, Chubi, and Si-o-Seh bridges.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesfe-Jahan, which is translated into “half the world”, meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world.

Ardabil to host festival of nomadic lifestyle

TEHRAN – Ardabil province, which is home to various tribes, will be playing host to a nomadic festival in May.

“We are planning to stage a tribal festival on an international scale,” Ardabil province's tourism chief said on Tuesday.

Ardabil has been selected as the cultural capital of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2023.

“We will invite nomadic people from ECO member states to take part in the festival,” Hassan Mohammadi-Adib said.

The festival is expected to be visited by ministers and representatives of ECO member states as well, the official noted.

Tribe tourism, also known as ethno-tourism or ethnic tourism, lays the ground for avid travelers to feel indigenous people by living with a nomad or rural family or enjoying an independent stay. However, as the name implies, it's a trip for recreational purposes rather than an expedition for anthropological research.

Each month, several tribal festivals are held across the country. Moreover, tens of collective tours bring visitors to experience life among the tribespeople.

Many tour operators believe that tribal regions could be deemed as the legacy of human authenticity in their novel cultural and human aspects. In Iranian culture, literature,



and public opinion, nomads have always been a proud part of the nation.

Iranian nomads surprise visitors with dignity in their rough and overworked hands and integrity in their compassionate eyes at first sight.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or two, maybe a lifetime experience. As a traveler, one has the chance to visit, live, eat, and sleep in a nomadic camp with a real nomadic family. Colorful dresses, vast black tents, colored-eyed children with rosy cheeks, a modest lifestyle, scenic landscape, and local dishes are probably among the delights of such visits.

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

UNESCO sites at a glance



Ajanta Caves

The caves at Ajanta are excavated out of a vertical cliff above the left bank of the river Waghora in the hills of Ajanta.

They are thirty in number, including the unfinished ones, of which five are chaityagrihas (sanctuary) and the rest, sangharamas or viharas (monastery).

The caves are connected to the river by rock-cut staircases. The excavation activity was carried out in two different phases separated by an interval of about four centuries.

The first phase coincides with the rule of the Satavahana dynasty from about the 2nd century BC to the 1st century BC, while the second phase corresponds to the Basim branch of the Vakataka dynasty with their Asmaka and Rishika feudatories in the 5th to

6th centuries CE.

Altogether, six caves were excavated in the first phase by Hinayana/Theravadin followers of Buddhism, wherein Buddha was worshipped in an aniconic/symbolic form.

These caves are simple and austere and carry mural paintings sparsely. The chaityagrihas are characterized by a vaulted ceiling and an apsidal end, the façade dominated by a horseshoe-shaped window, known as chaitya window.

Internally, they are divided by colonnades into a central nave and side aisles, the latter continuing behind the apse for circumambulation. At the centre of the apse stands the object of worship in the form of a chaitya or stupa, also hewn out of the rock. The monasteries consist of an astylar hall meant for congregation, and a range of cells on three sides serving as the dwelling apartments (viharas) for monks.

In the second phase, the rupestral activity was dominated by the Mahayana followers of Buddhism, where Buddha was worshipped in an icon/idol form.

The earlier caves were reused, and several new ones were excavated. The architectural forms of the earlier phase continued, however, with a renewed architectural and sculptural fervour.

Kashan: desert city of rose-water and atmospheric places

From Page 1 ► Some tour guides say the best time to visit the Agha Bozorg Mosque is during sunset. However, it is worth returning after dark as well, when the mosque is beautifully illuminated.

The bazaar

Some say bazaars never fail to amaze sightseers, and each bazaar has its own unique atmosphere. Kashan's bazaar is an intricate maze of alleys with hidden mosques and tea houses.

Don't forget to look up at the beautiful domes in the ceilings. It is also possible to get up on the roof of the bazaar as well for a beautiful view of Kashan. Even though it should be possible for free, you probably have more success finding your way there by asking one of the shop owners.

Fin garden

In the north of Kashan is the lush Fin garden that is among the top things to do in Kashan. As it turned out, this was also the destination for many school tours.

Despite its popularity among locals, it is a very peaceful place. It's among the oldest gardens in Iran and goes as far back as 1590. It is also the place where politician Amir Kabir was assassinated by the king in 1852.

Don't miss the beautiful ceiling of the central building. This is, in fact, the highlight of Fin garden. There is also a nice tea house inside the garden that is the perfect place for a small break.

Fin garden is eight kilometers from the city at the end of the Amir Kabir road.

Visiting a rose-water factory

Kashan is also famous for the production of rosewater that has been produced in this region for millennia.



Near Fin garden and the Tabatabaei house, you can visit a rose-water factory where the rose-water is produced. The entrance is free.

Kashan is the best place to buy rose-water in Iran. There are, in fact, around 700 workshops and more than 60 rose water factories in Kashan.

Shahzadeh-ye Ibrahim

This small shrine hidden in a backstreet on the way to Fin garden gets few visitors. Although it is nothing spectacular, it makes for an interesting and quiet stop.

Wandering through the old town

Wandering through the small streets of the old town holds many surprises for perfect scenes. For example, if you look carefully at the doors, you can see many have two knockers. One was for male visitors and the other for female visitors.

The best time to take a walk is in the afternoon when the sun starts to set down and the old town is at its most beautiful.

Kashan's traditional houses

18 million visits to Iran's cultural heritage museums registered

TEHRAN – Iran's cultural heritage museums saw over 18 million visitors as of the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2022), the director of museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry said on Tuesday.

“From the beginning of 1401 until now, more than 18 million visitors toured museums operated by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts,” Morteza Adibzadeh said.

Palace complexes of Golestan and Sa'dabad welcomed the highest number of visitors during the period, the official added.

Sprawled on about 110 hectares of a mountainside parkland in northern Tehran, the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex used to be a royal summer residence during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras. It embraces a variety of buildings, some of which turned to be house museums showcasing a wide range of royal families' memorabilia, including lavishly-made furniture,



dishware, automobiles, carpets, and miniature paintings.

The UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace embraces eight significant edifices, many of which turned into museums. It is a prime example of the Qajar era's architectural and artistic achievements, including the infusion of European themes and aesthetics into Persian art.

The ancient country is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations,

embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments, including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550– 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

Bafq named national city of mat weaving

TEHRAN – Bafq, an ancient town in Yazd province, has recently been registered as a hub of mat weaving, YJC reported.

Mat weaving or as in the Persian language “Hasirbafi” which traces back a thousand years ago, is a kind of handicraft that is created differently in each region and by



using various kinds of leaves.

This craft is more common in sea sides and riversides because the principal material for it is wilding plants that grow near the marshes and rivers. In many regions, stems of wheat, rye, rice, and leaflets of palm trees are used to weave the products, too.

To weave a mat, first stems that match each other in size and diameter are picked and soaked in water. Then three to five of them are packed together by another stem. These bundles are woven together to make objects such as baskets, bags, floor covers, wall hang, etc.

Persian handicrafts: Mirrorwork

TEHRAN – Mirrorwork is the art of creating regular shapes using small or large pieces of mirror mosaics, and is used as a decorative element in interior spaces.

A mirrorwork not only enhances the decorations of architecture but also illuminates the space by multiplying the light reflections.

Due to the discovery of many glass artifacts dating back to the Parthian and Sassanid dynasties, it has been argued that glasswork has been practiced for a long time.

Symbols of purity, fortune, truth, light, mirrors, and water have long been associated with Iranian culture.

Mirrorwork gained popularity in the 19th century. Germany made mirror vases for Iran, which were

thereafter shipped to that country. Vases could be cut into mosaics in any form desired by the Iranians and used accordingly.

Mirrorwork was typically built with one-piece mirror panels at the beginning, for instance, the Chehel Sotoun (literally Forty Columns) Palace in Isfahan.

In the past, it used to be possible to see the reflection of people passing through an entrance due to the large mirror placed over one of the entrances. Gradually, however, the pieces became smaller.

By the end of the 19th century, mirrors were formed into small triangles, diamonds, or hexagons. Iranian architects also used convex glasses that were turned into mirrors.

While the architects of the Qajar dynasty followed

the trends common to the Safavid dynasty, a new style of architecture emerged.

Only during Nasser al-Din Shah's reign did Western art trends influence Iranian art and architectural and applied arts such as stucco, mirrorwork, and mosaics improved. During that time, mirrorwork was used to decorate both royal buildings and shrines.

Because of this, mirrorwork developed during the Qajar period, with fascinating designs such as muqarnas, arabesques, and calligraphy and painting on the mirror.

The Mirror Hall of Golestan Palace and Shams-ol-Emareh are only two examples of many other masterpieces that remain today.

Shiraz, Isfahan, and Tehran are the major centers of mirrorwork in Iran.

From page 1 ► Delegations from Mongolia, China, Ukraine, and Canada will also attend the event online.

Information technology and software, medicine and medical equipment, engineering and advanced materials, mining and energy, and creative industries are some of the areas where startups present their ideas.

During the two-day event, 24 top startups are going to present their ideas to international investors. These startups operate in the fields of ITC, materials, health, and creative industries.

The participants are also scheduled to hold specialized panels, one of which is related to the unveiling of the joint technology investment fund.

The fund was introduced at the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Turkey and Malaysia have already agreed to launch such a fund.

The participants are scheduled to hold specialized panels, one of which is related to the unveiling of the joint technology investment fund.

Iran is planning to launch the fund based on the priorities of D-8 countries to invest in technological projects in a specialized way.

At this event, a panel titled incentives and investment opportunities of countries will be presented. Turkish Technology Council, Bangladesh Ministry of Science and Technology,



Eight countries to attend Iran startup event

and Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency are also scheduled to attend.

So far, 11 investment contracts worth \$10.6 million have been signed in the fields of medical equipment, mining, transportation, ICT, and energy.

Also, based on the forecasts, Iran plans to sign contracts worth \$15 million in technological fields, of which \$3.6 million are related to projects in the field of pro-robotics and medical equipment between Iran and Indonesia.

Moreover, plans will be unveiled in the fields of artificial intelligence, engineering services, equipment, and machinery.

This event is a great opportunity

for economic actors in various fields of technology to develop their share of international markets by presenting their products, services, and capabilities.

In the last edition of the event (TIM 2022), over 100 foreign investors and 28 domestic investors were present and showcased the products and services of 61 startups and investing companies.

The result of this valuable event was concluding 11 cooperation contracts worth \$10 million, which is expected to grow this year significantly.

This event includes various programs, such as the presentation of technology companies with the aim of attracting capital,

specialized panels, signing MOUs, concluding joint investment contracts, and visiting the country's technology and innovation ecosystem.

Over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations 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.

Environmental diplomacy to help secure water rights

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has started environmental diplomacy with neighboring countries in a bid to secure water rights for the country's wetlands.

With the direct order of President Ebrahim Raisi to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the demand for the water rights of the wetlands with catchment areas from the border rivers with the neighboring countries is being followed up.

In the past years, the neighboring countries have not provided the water rights of the wetlands in the south-east and north-west of the country, and this issue has created problems, Mojtaba Zoljoudi, an official with the Department of Environment, has said.

Referring to the dust storms emerging from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait to the west of Iran, he said: "Agreement with the neighbors and solving this problem is the first priority of the country's environmental diplomacy, which started this year and continues with more strength than before."

He went on to say that 12 neighboring countries are members of the Ramsar Convention, and efforts are being made to form a good cooperation in this format to solve the environmental problems of the region, he added, IRIB reported.

Next week, the meeting of the executive committee of the Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas, known as ROPME) will be held, he noted.



According to the law, after the supply of drinking water to the people, the provision of water rights for wetlands and rivers is a priority.

"Iran will use this opportunity to hold good negotiations with the officials of the Persian Gulf countries regarding the control of oil pollution and desalination effluents."

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the secretariat, is supposed to take the center stage in negotiations about the status of wetlands in the region and dust pollution in this area.

There are 3.5 million hectares of wetlands in the country, of which 1.5 million have dried up to

a large extent due to the droughts of the last 2 years and have paved the way for dust storms.

"Although the amount of rainfall has been good this year, it is still not in a favorable situation and to improve the conditions, we hope for continued rains and then the action of the Ministry of Energy in securing the water rights of the wetlands," he highlighted.

According to the law, after the supply of drinking water to the people, the provision of water rights for wetlands and rivers is a priority, while in the past years, following the occurrence of drought, less than 30 percent of the water rights have been provided, and this amount in some provinces is less than 10 percent.

This year, the Ministry of Energy has cooperated more in this field and until now, the water rights of Bakhtegan Wetland and satellite wetlands of Lake Urmia have been secured to some extent, Zoljoudi said.

There are more than 2,000 wetlands in the country, 226 of which have been approved by the administration to be allocated water rights, and 36 wetlands in Iran have been registered in the Ramsar Convention.

The upcoming meeting of the five countries of the Caspian Sea that are members of the Tehran Convention, is scheduled to be held in Iran.

"We are developing a plan with the cooperation of these countries to create a suitable environment around the Caspian Sea, both in terms of pollution control and watershed management."

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that "We have been able to play a role in this area globally."

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

"We have conducted researches in the field of blood and urine biomarkers, which will help control cancers in the country," he said.

Pointing out that there are about 250,000 cancer patients in the country, Malekzadeh noted that 50,000 people die each year from the disease and 125,000 new patients develop cancer, so that the number of people with the disease increases each year.

ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است.

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم.

وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند. معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بیومارکرهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود.

ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر براثر این بیماری می‌میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می‌شوند. در نتیجه هر ساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می‌شود.

National Nanotechnology Competition slated for June

TEHRAN – The 12th National Nanotechnology Competition will be held on June 22-24 with the aim of promoting nanotechnology in the country.

The National Nanotechnology Competition is the largest scientific competition on the subject of nanoscience and nanotechnology among interested students and university graduates.

The winners will receive special prizes including National Elite Foundation scores, medals, nano-startup entry licenses, nanotechnology teachers network entry licenses, research grants, training grants, and cash prizes.

The first phase of the competition will be held online on June 22-24, and the top 300 people will enter the second phase, which will be held in person on July 21.

The top 30 will advance to the third stage or practical competition camp. The final ranking of the winners of the competition will be announced after the end of the third stage.

The nanotechnology sector is a prime example of success in Iran, an arena consisting of expert and program-oriented human resources with significant goals that shines like a jewel in the innovation and technology ecosystem of the country.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the main challenges of the country in various areas, including industry.

The national document on promoting the application of nanotechnology has outlined the path to achieving the major goals of the development of nanotechnology in the country.

According to the document, 12,199 articles by Iranian researchers related to nanotechnology were indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) in 2021, which was equivalent to 41.5 percent of all articles published in the nanotechnology sector.

This share of the nanotechnology articles placed Iran fourth in the world in 2020 and 2021.

It is noteworthy that before the establishment of the national headquarters for nanotechnology development in 2000, the country ranked 58th in the



world and 6th in the Middle East with publishing just eight articles.

Iran currently ranks fourth in nanotechnology in the world after the United States, India, and China

Currently, 66 Iranian universities accept students in the master's program and 22 universities in the doctoral program in various fields of nanotechnology.

On November 28, 2022, President Ebrahim Raisi declared to implement the national document for promoting the application of nanotechnology.

Consisting of 7 articles, the ten-year document aims to train human resources and provide infrastructure for the development and commercialization of technology. Priority industrial areas are water and environment, energy, agriculture, health, and construction.

In this document, Iran was targeted to be among the top 15 nanotechnology countries in the world and aimed to generate wealth and improve people's lives.

In order to continue the nanotechnology progress, the upcoming national document has been compiled with new goals and approaches such as being a reference in science and technology, industrialization, maximum impact of nanotechnology in priority industrial areas, and entry of nano products into the global markets and the promotion of people's lives.

By 2033, the advancements of nanotechnology in Iran will improve the quality of life and the production of wealth. The country moves towards global authority in science and nanotechnology by producing innovative products while having a stable place in the market of other countries.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 67

Deltas of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab

Coastal mudflats, mangroves and salt-marshes around the deltas of three rivers are subject to spring flooding.

A shallow, inshore zone includes mud and sand flats, bars and spits. Arid plains and steppe occur inland.

The area is important for wintering waterbirds. There are a few human settlements near the wetlands.

Overview

A large area of inter-tidal mudflats, estuaries, mangrove swamps and sandy beaches in the contiguous deltas of five rivers on the northern shore of the straits of Hormoz at the entrance to the Persian Gulf are import-

ant for wintering waterfowl, specially shore-birds and gulls .

The wetlands of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab are good representative examples of the mudflat/mangrove ecosystem characteristic of the coasts of the southern Persian Gulf and the adjacent of Oman Sea.

The wetland supports a wintering population of the globally threatened *Pelecanus crispus*, *Namenius tenuirostris* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

In winter, the mudflats support over 1% of the regional populations of the waterbirds *Hemotopus ostralegus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea goliath* and *Limosa lapponica*.

The site provides important spawning and nursery grounds for shrimp and many fish species.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



Heavy snow in Koohrang

Heavy snow has blanketed the entire Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province. The height of snow had reached 222 centimeters by Tuesday in the mountainous areas. The roofs of some houses were not clear. An emergency situation has been declared in the city of Koohrang. Snowfalls were continuing on Wednesday as well.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The faithful are tied in kindness and affection together like members of a body, one's pain and hardship affect the others.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 18:05 Dawn: 5:25 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:50 (tomorrow)

Iran: classical Persian literature

Part 3

This shows how a great poet performed his epic art at the beginning of the 11th century. As pointed out above, a division of labor was still at work: poet, copyist, and declaimer/ narrator were three different entities. Medieval troubadours and itinerant minstrels in the West followed similar patterns.

Arabic poetry originated before the advent of Islam (5th-6th centuries) and has been the subject of much debate and analysis from the first centuries after the rise of Islam.

The historic precedents of Persian poetry, however, are not similar or comparable. The Parthian gusans of the pre-Islamic era were minstrels who regularly appeared at ceremonial occasions and feasts, told epic tales, and recited lyrical poetry.

Their legacy provided material and inspiration for later works of classical Persian literature (Vis o Ramin). Some Zoroastrian and Buddhist texts have also survived from the early days of Persian literature.

Persian poetry and aesthetics: A Persian poem can be regarded as an objet d'art in itself: crafted to please the eye as well as the ear.

But behind the art there are rules and techniques that already appear well-established in the works of Rudaki. However, allusions made by Shams-e Qeys (13th century) suggest that there was a period of less sure-footed literary attempts before the advent of this accomplished poet.

At first, this hesitation was of a practical nature; theory was to follow. For example, Radu-yani's Tarjoman al-balagha, dating back to the 11th century, is mostly an inventory of poetic figures and imagery.

In practice, in terms of rhythm, one shifted from pre-Islamic poetry relying on alternating stresses, periodically returning to the ictus (stress on a syllable in a line of verse), to a poetry based on the variation of long and short syllables, as in Arabic poetry.

We are better able to reconstitute these moments of transition and hesitation, in which the ancient rhythms were reinterpreted as new rhythms, and principles of Arabic rhyme prevailed once its alphabet was adopted.

In the poems of Rudaki, the new technique appears firmly ensconced. Assured and clear and yet flexible from this early period, it was only necessary to refine it slightly over the course of time.

It was not until the 20th century that this traditional prosody was called into question. By favoring different schools of poetry, the patronage of princes contributed to the establishment of longstanding traditions, e.g., Khorasani, Eraqi, Azerbaijani, and Hendi (Indian) to name the most significant.

Court poets ever since Rudaki, or poets reciting their verses on religious occasions or in sufi gatherings since at least the time of Abu Sa'id Abil-Khayr in early 11th century, had to present themselves before an audience and prove their worth.

The listeners were able to judge the poet's art and technique instantly, and they especially appreciated his ability to improvise in public. Improvisation (badiha-sarai) could spell immediate recognition and advancement for a great poet such as Farrokhi.

Art, technique, and improvisation were

venues through which the poet encountered the expectations of his audience and, drawing on his own erudition to exert his authority, ventured to play a part in reshaping the prevailing poetic traditions.

Technical elements and aspects of Persian poetry. The minimal unit of a Persian poem is a line of verse formed in two parts, each containing the same number of syllables and set to the same rhythm. Indebted to Arabic poetry, this distich form is called a bayt, with the long and short syllables arranged according to codified schemes.

The principles of these schemes are borrowed from Arabic, though it must also be borne in mind that the great Persian meters are not very common in Arabic and are most likely adapted from ancient Persian stress systems.

Such is the case of the quatrain, the robai, so typical of Persian and known before Islam. It is also the case for the motaqareb, a reinterpretation of a stressed rhythm found in Middle Persian, and the meter used for many famous long narrative poems in Persian, including Ferdowsi's Shahnameh.

The specialized use of this meter and some others is in itself a clear indication of the way literary genres existed and were formally distinguished from each other through the use of specific meters.

Ultimately, however, the beauty of a Persian poem also lies in its public recitation and oral performance (a relatively new and important field of research), where many other factors intervene.

In turn, rhyme is essential for the poetic effect of a Persian poem. It was the imitation of Arabic poetry that let to its widespread use. A simple voiced refrain at first, it soon became more complex and codified.

In a Persian poem, the arrangement of rhymes defines its form. A form is considered classical when both parts of the first bayt rhyme. The most common and simple poem consists of two bayts, the quatrain, whose second bayt must rhyme with the first bayt.

Normally the first bayt (or distich) of the entire poem carries the rhyme, its two hemistiches rhyming with each other. The masnavi is a poem with a special meter with each hemistich rhyming with its counterpart and with the rhyme changing with each line.

It is thus free from the constraints of mono-rhyme and malleable enough to be used in long poems. On the contrary, in the ghazal, also in a special meter, all the bayts rhyme, and ghazals are, in contrast to masnavis, relatively short.

The qasida, an older and more developed form than the ghazal, resembles the latter in form and is also in mono-rhyme but can vary greatly in length and usually contains three distinct thematic parts.

It should be noted that the qasida, the ghazal, and the quatrain were the three forms on which Persian medieval manuals dealing with rhetoric, prosody and poetic imagery (and often echoing Arabic manuals) concentrated, and quotations from them were the main focus of analysis, giving them a privileged position vis-à-vis other important forms, most notably that of the masnavi and its varied subject matter, which received relatively less attention in the earlier works on poetry.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

“The Stranger” wins big at National Will Manifestation Awards

TEHRAN – “The Stranger”, an Iranian film that portrays the military life of IRGC commander Mohammad Borujerdi, scored a big win on Tuesday by garnering five prizes at the National Will Manifestation Awards.

The gala is a supplement to the Fajr Film Festival and the awards are presented by public organizations and institutes to those films that are in agreement with their goals and interests.

Juries from the organizations select winners from the films screened at the Fajr Film Festival every year. This year's festival was held from February 1 to 11.

The awards ceremony organized at the Azadi Hotel was attended by the festival president Mojtaba Amini and representatives of public organizations.

Directed by Mohammad-Hossein Latifi, “The Stranger” is about IRGC commander Mohammad Borujerdi's struggles against separatists in western Iran to maintain territorial integrity in the region in the early 1980s.

Latifi and writer and producer Hamed Anqa and actor Babak Hamidian, who stars as Borujerdi in the film, won the awards from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Bank Mellat, the Culture Ministry's Quran Department, the Office of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, and the

Director Mohammad-Hossein Latifi holds his prize after being honored during the National Will Manifestation Awards at Tehran's Azadi Hotel on February 14, 2023.

Public Culture Council.

“Fragrant” received awards from three organizations, including the Astan Qods Razavi, the organizational custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), Municipality of Mashhad.

Director Hadi Moqaddamdoost and writer Hossein Hassani were honored by the organization. This film tells the story of a happy couple, which faces some challenges as they are waiting for their first child to be born.

The Astan Qods Razavi also gave its best film award to “The Smart Kid” produced by Hamed Jafari.

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.

The film also won the best film awards of the Environment Faction of the Iranian Parliament and Bank Mellat.

The bank also honored Leili Aaj

for her directorial debut, “Colonel Sorayya”.

Written based on a true story, the film portrays mothers longing for their children being held captive in Iraq at Camp Ashraf, the base of the MKO, which has officially been designated as a terrorist group.

“Bavardeh Flowers”, “Metropol Cinema”, “In the Arms of the Tree”, “A Man in Leather Jacket”, “The Captain”, “Number 10”, “They Loved Me” and several other films were also honored by some organizations.

38th Fajr Music Festival unveils program

Photo: A poster for the 38th Fajr Music Festival.

From Page 1 ► Bands from Portugal, Russia, Hungary, India, Afghanistan,

Tajikistan, Armenia and Serbia will give performances.

A dozen pop bands, five orchestras, 28 folk music groups, 14 traditional music ensembles and 11 anthem bands have been invited to perform at the event.

The festival will also take place at the same time in Golestan, East Azarbaijan, Kermanshah, Khorasan, Zanjan, Hormozgan, Kerman, Mazandaran, Hamedan, Bushehr, Alborz, Lorestan and several other provinces.

The organizers also plan to set up the “Festival of Festivals”, a new section that will screen videos of concerts performed during

the previous editions of the festival.

Posters for the previous editions and photos of their performances will also be showcased in exhibitions.

The festival will pay tribute to Iranian tenor Esfandiar Qarabaghi, who died last December at the age of 79.

Qarabaghi was most famous for his song “USA, USA, Shame on Your Deceits!” recorded by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in 1979 after the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Several journalists and media, which have made outstanding contributions to music over the past year, will be awarded.

Book uncovering myths on teens’ use of social media published in Persian

TEHRAN – “It’s Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens” by danah boyd, a partner researcher at Microsoft Research and the founder of Data & Society, has been published in Persian.

Elmi-Farhangi is the publisher of the book translated by Marina Farhudizadeh.

What is new about how teenagers communicate through services such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram? Do social media affect the quality of teens’ lives?

In this eye-opening book, youth culture and technology expert danah boyd uncovers some of the major myths regarding teens’ use of social media.

She explores tropes about identity, privacy, safety, danger and bullying. Ultimately, boyd

Front cover of the Persian edition of danah boyd's book “It's Complicated”.

argues that society fails young people when paternalism and protectionism hinder teenagers’ ability to become informed, thoughtful and

engaged citizens through their online interactions.

Yet despite an environment of rampant fear-mongering, boyd finds that teens often find ways to engage and develop a sense of identity.

Boyd’s conclusions are essential reading not only for parents, teachers and others who work with teens but also for anyone interested in the impact of emerging technologies on society, culture and commerce in years to come.

Offering insights gleaned from more than a decade of original fieldwork interviewing teenagers across the United States, boyd concludes reassuringly that the kids are all right.

At the same time, she acknowledges that coming to

terms with life in a networked era is not easy or obvious. In a technologically mediated world, life is bound to be complicated.

Originally published by Yale University Press in 2014, “It’s Complicated” has received widespread acclaim.

“boyd’s new book is layered and smart... ‘It’s Complicated’ will update your mind,” Alissa Quart wrote in New York Times Book Review.

“A fascinating, well-researched and (mostly) reassuring look at how today’s tech-savvy teenagers are using social media,” People commented.

“The briefest possible summary? The kids are all right, but society isn’t,” Andrew Leonard said in Salon.

Hiyam

sustained significant scars from it. That’s when I made the decision to write this book, which serves as an example of those people.”

Ghorbani talked about the book’s writing process and said that “Hiyam” includes eight chapters, is written in a fictitious form, and has very basic but lovely prose.

According to her, in this story, the interpretation of the character’s thoughts has been avoided, because she wanted the strong point of this novel to be the language of common understanding and be free of misleading complications.

The author claims that she avoided interpreting the thinking of the characters in this story because she wanted the book’s strongest aspect to be its use of straightforward language free of confusing complexities.

When asked about the name of the book, the author explained that “Hiyam”, which means

mania and excitement in Arabic, was chosen because the protagonist, Sara, is a prime example of a person who, in search of the sweetness of love, finds herself in the depths of the world’s most bitter phenomenon—war—and experiences a strange love.