

Currency War

Page 3

Op-ed

Stoning Iran: Examining western media disinformation campaigns against Iran

By Shahab Esfandiari

A few years ago, I co-authored a chapter titled 'Stoning Iran: Strategic Narratives, Moral Authority and the Reporting of a Stoning Sentence' in a collection of essays published by I.B Tauris with the title 'Reporting the Middle East' (2017). The chapter involved a critical analysis of a case of 'sham reporting' on Iran where many facts were omitted, twisted or distorted. It was a classic case of what today we call disinformation campaigns. Over the past couple of months we have found many more cases to study.

During and after the recent protests and riots in Iran, many reports were published in Western media. Some of these reports include disturbing details about rape, sexual assault or even accounts of alleged shootings to genitals of female protesters by Iranian 'Basijis' or voluntary forces. Many of these reports are by junior journalists

Report

All you need to know about the Ukraine war

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- The Ukraine war has entered its second year and the past 12 months have shown there are a variety of aspects toward this conflict.

In 2014, following the revolution in Ukraine, armed clashes broke out between ethnic Russians (opposed to the new government in Kyiv) and the Ukrainian military in the country's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions which make up the Donbas.

Despite European attempts to ease the fighting, such as the Minsk agreements which granted self-government to the Donbas but failed and the fighting continued, leaving around 15,000 people dead.

Officials in Donetsk and Luhansk claim that Kyiv aimed to wipe them out. This caused deep concern in Russia.

Interview

Expert Cheraghpour lauds Foolad's performance against Al Hilal

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iranian football expert, Jalal Cheraghpour, hailed Foolad for their performance against Al Hilal in the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League.

Titleholders Al Hilal advanced to the semifinals of the Asian Champions League with a 1-0 win over the Iranian club Thursday night.

Al-Hilal had a tough job in the game against a resilient Foolad squad and needed a goal from Moussa Marega three minutes from time to defeat the Ahvaz-based team.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

TEHRAN TIMES

MRS. THATCHER IS CLEARCUT WINNER

A grief-stricken nation pays homage to Ayatollah Motahheri

Death in cause of right is no death

VP: West's portrayal of Iranian women is far from reality

By Fatemeh Khezri

TEHRAN - Ensieh Khazali, the vice-president for women and family affairs, says western media's negative portrayal of Iranian women is vastly different from reality.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Khazali expounded on the First International Congress for Women of Influence that was held in Tehran on January 20.

Female guests including wives of heads of state, ministers, vice presidents, and parliamentarians from Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkmenistan, and Armenia attended the congress.

In your opinion, what is the difference between the picture being painted by the western media about Iranian women and the reality?

We can say that the western media's portrayal of Iranian women is vastly different from reality.

During January-December 2022, India's export to Iran also increased by 44 percent to stand at \$1.847 billion, while the figure was \$1.284 billion in 2021.

Iran's annual export to India rises 60%

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's export to India increased by 60 percent in 2022 as compared to the preceding year, according to the data released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Indian ministry put the worth of Iran's exports to India at \$653 million in 2022, while

the figure was \$409 million in 2021, IRNA reported.

As reported, petroleum products have been the major goods imported by India from Iran in the said months.

According to the mentioned data, the value

of trade between Iran and India reached \$2.5 billion in 2022, rising 48 percent from \$1.693 billion in 2021.

During January-December 2022, India's export to Iran also increased by 44 percent to stand at \$1.847 billion, while the figure was \$1.284 billion in 2021.

Fajr Festival of Visual Arts announces winners

TEHRAN - Winners of different categories at the 15th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts were announced on Friday during a special ceremony at Tehran's Vahdat Hall.

They received their awards from Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili and his colleagues.

The Golden Tooba in miniature painting was awarded to Zeinab Shahi, while Ruhollah Parvin, Zeinab Rajabi and Jila Shiri received honorable mentions.

Azar Omid was honored in the painting category and Sajjad Gomar and Alireza Hosseini were awarded honorable mentions.

Abbas Mohammadju was selected as best artist in the cartoon and caricature section. Hossein Rahimkhani and Salar Eshratkhah were praised with honorable mentions.

The award for best artist in the illustration category was given to Majid Zakeri, and Elham Zamani and Rasul Mirdamadi won honorable mentions.

Bandian complex offers time travels to Sassanid era

TEHRAN - An experience of traveling back in time to see magnificent examples of ancient plasterwork, bas-relief carvings, and other decorative elements is probably an unreachable dream.

Bandian complex, a site museum chockful of Sassanid architecture and arts in northeast Iran, offers visitors a time travel to the longest-lived Persian imperial dynasty, which endured for over four centuries, from 224 to 651CE.

The archaeological was originally a fire Temple that is situated in Dargaz county of Khorasan Razavi province near the medieval city of Abiward.

During the leveling of agricultural land in 1990, this ancient complex was found. Since 1994, there have been excavations and inquiries.

From Inside

- Leader representatives meet war veterans P2
- Iran capable of monitoring satellites with ground radars P2
- Iran to build new nuclear plant P3
- NIDC digs 93 oil, gas wells in 11 months P4
- Iran becomes world 11th largest automaker in 2022: ACEA P4
- Over 2.6m tons of steel products exported in 10 months P4
- Lukashenko to visit China next week P5
- Bafq potential gateway for desert tourism P6
- Visual distortion: building to be flattened near Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System P6
- First mRNA-based COVID vaccine starts clinical trial P7
- "And Justice for All" to come under critical scrutiny at Iranian Artists Forum P8
- Persian edition of "The Private Lives of Trees" republished P8

Tehran Papers

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

A media show-off to encourage Zelensky

The Iran newspaper says Biden's unexpected visit to Kyiv, under the tight security arrangement, was noticed by the world media.

IRGC unveils new long-range missile, warns Europe

TEHRAN - A Senior Iranian officials said Saturday that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has added a new long-range cruise missile to its missile arsenal.

IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said the new cruise missile, dubbed Paveh, has a range of 1,650 kilometers, according to a Tasnim report.

Iranian diplomat in Colombia to discuss political, economic relations

TEHRAN- Ali Baqeri Kani, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, is in Colombia's capital, Bogota, as part of a Latin American trip to have talks with Colombian officials regarding Tehran and Bogota's potential for political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

The deputy foreign ministers of Iran and Colombia met on Friday to discuss a range of bilateral topics, including how to deepen political connections, commercial relations, and scientific, technical, and cultural collaboration between the two countries.

Op-ed

Where and when next major earthquakes may occur?

By Mehdi Zare

TEHRAN - The occurrence of earthquakes on February 6, 2023, Mw7.8 and Mw7.5 in southern Turkey and northern Syria, on the northwestern border of the Arabian plate and at the point of collision with the Anatolian block (Eurasian plate), and the occurrence of the earthquake on 12 November 2017 in Sarpole Zahab in the basement of Folded Zagros belt in Iran, Mw7.3 has raised the important question of where and when the next major earthquakes may occur on this border and around the Arabian Plate.



## TEHRAN PAPERS

## A media show-off to encourage Zelensky

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

from page 1 ► The trip, which took place after the Munich Security Conference, shows that the U.S., as the chief commander of the war in Ukraine, is trying to continue the war. But Washington believes that, in addition to logistical aspects, it will also expand the war geographically, and that is why Biden visited Poland.

Biden promises to stand by Ukraine until the end. Therefore, it will send advanced weapons to Ukraine.

The interests of Ukraine are not important to Washington, and what has forced Biden to travel and support Ukraine today is that the interests of the United States and NATO have been endangered.

But the promise of sending advanced equipment to Ukraine has not yet been fulfilled, and it seems that such promises are more to expand the war and strengthen the spirit of Ukrainians.

**Arman-e Melli: Grossi's trip; hope for negotiations**

The IAEA Director General will travel to Tehran but there are doubts about the result of his trip. But if the Americans want the trip to bear results that lead to negotiations, it will also satisfy the Europeans, Arman-e Melli writes.

Therefore, we have to look at the conditions that the Americans had set for the dialogue and the start of negotiations which have probably been delivered to Tehran by the Foreign Minister of Qatar a few weeks ago.

Have we now reached a stage where we can hope for negotiations or not? Of course, we see small signs. For example, the softening of the harsh tone of the Europeans, especially Germany, against Iran in the last few months.

On the other hand, Western news agencies report that the stockpile of Russian drones, which are made mostly in Iran, has been emptied. These provide the ground for Mr. Grossi to draw conclusions during his trip to Tehran.

Of course, there is still no certainty that the Westerners have reached an agreement. Some of their demands, such as the release of political prisoners in Iran or the halting of executions, have been met. Although these measures are still not satisfactory for Europe, they are still positive steps.

Therefore, according to the prevailing conditions in the U.S. and Russia, Grossi's visit to Tehran can be more hopeful.

**Aftab Yazd: Chinese houses for Iranians**

Aftab Yazd writes: It is a significant issue for a country like China to take advantage of an economic opportunity.

The first thing about the construction of housing in Iran by the Chinese is that this country will benefit as usual. Since China will bring its own materials and workforce to Iran and the cooperation is mainly in the construction, design, technical, and engineering services, therefore it cannot be monitored by the countries that have sanctioned Iran.

At the same time, we should bear in mind that many people believe that house construction is one of election promises and should be followed.

Not only we have not turned home construction into an opportunity for Iranian companies, but we have created an opportunity for a foreign country.

The government is forced to do this in line with its promises, but this is not very crucial for strengthening diplomacy between the two countries because China has such opportunities in other countries as well.

However, the interests of the Chinese in this cooperation are greater, but its benefit for Iran is, nothing else, but the realization of election promises.

**Sharq: Changing the nature of Iran's nuclear case**

Sharq says after claim of 84% enrichment in an Iranian nuclear facility, analysts are of the opinion that if the current condition continues, the possibility of anti-Iran scenarios is very high as the IAEA Board of Governors will hold its seasonal meeting on March 6.

Although Iran's nuclear chief and nuclear spokesman as well as the foreign minister have given detailed explanations in this regard, Javad Torabi, a political analyst, tells the Sharq newspaper that the explanations about Iran's nuclear activities can be positive in itself, but, to me, it is not very effective.

He says: The status of the file in the IAEA has changed from a "technical and legal" one to "political and security" and this is a deliberate project to put pressure on Tehran along with the issue of the war in Ukraine and human rights.

**Etemad: Violation of commitment that may take Israel to Security Council**

Etemad writes: Last week, the Palestinian Authority (PA) under U.S. pressure gave up complaint against Israel at the Security Council.

PA was seeking to complain about Tel Aviv's new decisions for new settlement in the West Bank, but the recent bloody attack on Nablus appears to have changed the situation.

In this attack, which was one of the deadliest Israeli attacks in the West Bank since the second intifada, 11 people were martyred and at least 80 were injured.

The Palestinian Authority, with the cooperation of the Arab countries, intended to submit a resolution to the Security Council regarding the new decisions of the Israeli regime to recognize 9 illegal Jewish settlements and permit the construction of 10,000 new residential units in the West Bank.

Last week, the media reported that with the pressure of the U.S., PA was convinced to delay sending the draft of the resolution to the Council at least after Ramadan.

But after the Wednesday attack on Nablus, the Palestinians may change their mind so they may act in the UN.



## Leader representatives meet war veterans

TEHRAN- Representatives of the Leader of Islamic Revolution met on Saturday with veterans of Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s. Senior clerics, including Hujjat-ul-Islam Mohammad Qomi, visited with a few disabled war veterans in Tehran.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's representatives paid tribute to the veterans for their priceless sacrifices during the imposed war on Iran.

Leader's representatives also paid visits to war veterans in other cities.

## Iran capable of monitoring satellites with ground radars

*IRGC chief says military able to strike ships thousands of kilometers away*

TEHRAN- Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has emphasized Iran's advancements in missile and radar technologies by declaring that Iran has the technological expertise to detect satellites by using radars on the ground.

Speaking at a congress in Tehran on Saturday, Major General Hossein Salami also said Iranian military forces are able to launch a strike against ships sailing thousands of kilometers away and even pinpoint the exact point of strike, ensuring that the crew of the target ship is unaffected.

The commander also praised Iran's accomplishments in producing hypersonic and supersonic missiles that can strike moving targets at sea in addition to conventional cruise missiles.

Afterwards, General Salami emphasized the growth of Iran's



sphere of influence, asserting that the Islamic Republic is now omnipresent along the Red Sea and Mediterranean shores and

has "decomposed the enemy."

Noting that the enemy suffers a lack of initiative, the IRGC chief said, "The Islamic Revolution has

kicked the enemy out of its strategic shelter and forced it into operational expansion."

He added the enemy does not understand the power of rationality, but it understands the logic of power, thus the only method to deal with the haughty powers is the "language of force."

IRGC chief says the only way to deal with the haughty powers is the "language of force."

In December 2022, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, commander of the Iranian Army, issued a warning message to the Zionist regime and its allies that the Islamic Republic's response to possible military strikes will be crushing.

## IRGC has 'great record' in terror fight, Raisi says



TEHRAN- President Ebrahim Raisi has said the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has a "great record" in the war against terrorism, noting that martyr commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani has emerged as the region's anti-terrorist hero.

As part of a celebration marking National Guards Day on Friday, Raisi remarked that Iranian soldiers have always maintained security and stopped nefarious activities by the foes.

He also stressed that the IRGC warriors have always protected heavenly values, the Iranian people, and the homeland, which makes opponents dreadful.

The enemies had the misguided belief that they could intimidate the Iranian people and military by murdering its leaders and military personnel, Raisi said in reference to the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani in January 2020.

IRGC soldiers are active throughout the country and that the regional states attribute their security to the IRGC's valor, he pointed out.

"The global arrogance has spawned Daesh and terrorist organizations, while the IRGC's presence contributes to security," the president remarked.

He went on to say that "General Soleimani is the icon of the war on terrorism in the region as well as those who sow unrest."

In other parts of his remarks, Raisi said that Iran's adversaries had suffered several setbacks in a variety of fields and that they themselves had proclaimed them.

The president highlighted that anyone attempting to carry out a horrendous act against the country or endanger it will be vanquished while pointing out the enemies' failures in dealing with the Islamic establishment.

Referring to the IRGC as the flag-bearer of safeguarding heavenly values, the president furthered, "Today, old ignorance with a modern form and method, equipped with science and technology and supported by great powers and the media empire, commits the most heinous and ugly acts in societies, but the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps is proud to defend divine values."

Pointing to the remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Raisi said, "The powerful tree of the Islamic Revolution is stronger and more stable than ever because it has grown with the blood of the sincerest children of this country."

He added, "Some imagined that the Islamic Republic would be shaken by the recent events."

The president was referring to the protests and riots that broke out after the death of Mahsa Amini in September.

"Now, anybody who tries to deal a blow to the system with corruption and inefficiency should know that this system is clean and will not allow corruption," the president remarked.

## West not in position to judge or preach others: ambassador

TEHRAN- Abbas Bagherpour, the Iranian ambassador to Austria, emphasized that the West is not in a position to criticize or preach others at this time due to its dismal track record in terms of military activities.



In a reaction to the recent interventions and stances made by the United States and European nations about Iran's military contacts with other states, Bagherpour tweeted, "When a war of aggression, albeit failed, was initiated in 80s against Iran by

Saddam of Iraq; U.S. and Europe rendered full support to the aggressor, giving him every type of weapon and even chemical ones. With such a dark record, the West is not in a position today to judge or preach others!"

## Iran sends 13th humanitarian aid for quake-hit Syria

TEHRAN- The 13th plane delivering Islamic Republic of Iran's relief supplies to Syria's earthquake victims arrived in the country on Saturday.

Salman Navvab Nouri, Iran's general consul

in Aleppo, said the cargo included 12 tons of varied foodstuffs and powdered milk.

Iran has already supplied relief aid to Latakia and Aleppo.

Almost 200 planes have carried supplies to

Syria from several nations up to this point.

According to the most recent data, the death toll from the earthquakes that devastated southern Turkey Turkey and northern Syria earlier this month has surpassed 50,000.

## EU slaps fresh sanctions on Iran, Russia

TEHRAN- The European Union announced that it has sanctioned several Iranian entities while repeating the claims of Iran's military aid to Russia in the Ukraine war.

In a statement published on its website on Friday, the European Commission announced the 10th package of sanctions against

Russia and "those who support its aggressive and illegal war against Ukraine."

The EU has added about 120 individuals and entities to its sanction list, including Russian decision-makers, senior government officials and military leaders allegedly complicit in the war against Ukraine.

It noted that "such sanctions have also been carried out against people in Iran who have played a role in the production of drones and military parts in support of the Russian army."

The European Commission has announced that new bans have targeted the export of "sensitive, dual-use and advanced technol-

ogies" that help empowering the Russian army.

The bloc added that such punitive measures are done for the first time on seven Iranian entities using European-made gears to build drones which facilitate the strike on the Ukrainian civilian infrastructure.

## Iran to possibly provide Syria with indigenous air defense system

TEHRAN- Iranian and Syrian military authorities have agreed to deploy missile systems to Damascus in order to strengthen the Arab nation's air defenses in the face of an upsurge in Israeli airstrikes.

The IRIB News said in a report on Thursday night that Iran and Syria had agreed to the transfer of equipment for electronic and air defenses.

There is no further information on the terms and conditions of the agreement.

It was finalized during a recent trip to Iran

by senior military figures from Syria, including Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas, the Defense Minister.

The report showed that as a result of decades of struggle with terrorism, "Syria needed to restore the infrastructure of its air defenses and also required precise bombs for its warplanes."

The provision of Iranian radars and defensive missiles, such as the Khordad 15 missile system, to bolster Syria's air defenses is quite likely to occur.

The domestic missile system, which was unveiled in June 2019, has a range of 120 kilometers and can follow fighter planes and combat drones from 150 kilometers away.

Additionally, the system has an engagement range of 45 kilometers and can attack and destroy stealth targets at a distance of 85 kilometers.

The system can simultaneously identify, intercept, and destroy six targets using Sayyad missiles, and it will be ready to fight enemy targets in less than five minutes.



# Currency war

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The recent rise in the value of the U.S. dollar against the Iranian rial has come against the backdrop of renewed efforts by many non-Western countries to reduce U.S. financial hegemony over international institutions.

In a political statement on the first anniversary of the Ukraine war on Friday, global financial crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suspended the membership of Russia, a move that is likely to result in the disruption of some Russian financial transactions with foreign countries.

Accusing Russia of starting a “war of aggression against Ukraine” and engaging in arms trade with “United Nations sanctioned jurisdictions,” the FATF said, “The Russian Federation’s actions unacceptably run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system. They also represent a gross violation of the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed to implement and support the FATF Standards. Considering the above, the FATF has



decided to suspend the membership of the Russian Federation.”

The suspension came at a delicate moment in an international system punctuated by efforts to wriggle free from Western financial clout. The FATF, which happens to have had suspended Iran’s membership, made ample political allegations to justify its decision, a move that indicated how international financial institutions dominated by the West can be used as leverage to put pressure on rivals. This influence can be clearly seen in other international institutions such the International Monetary Fund.

Facing this Western exploitation, countries all over the world, even those allied to the West, are trying to reduce their dependence on Western-dominated financial institutions and currencies. For example, Iran and Russia have recently discussed ways of removing the U.S. dollar from their trade. Similarly, the United Arab Emirates and India did the same thing. And Iraq, which has greatly suffered for its reliance on the U.S. dollar recently, is moving in the same direction in its transactions with China.

In this regard, China appears to be a prime option in de-dollarization

efforts. Some are now talking of petroyuans instead of petrodollars.

Iran is perhaps the biggest fan of these efforts given its never-ending suffering with the dollar. In recent weeks, the Iranian rial has fallen sharply against the U.S. dollar, registering new all-time low records. Of course, some experts say that the depreciation of the Iranian currency has political reasons too. They say that Iran is facing a currency war that is aimed at intensifying economic hardships for ordinary people in order to get them to revolt against the establishment.

## IRGC unveils new long-range missile, warns Europe

Frome Page 1 ► General Hajizadeh also issued a warning to Europe about the range of Iranian missiles. He said Iran has missiles whose range is 2,000 km. “We can hit American warships within a range of 2,000 km and we kept this range out of respect for Europe, which we hope will avoid disrespecting [Iran],” he said.

Paveh, which has gone into operation recently, is named in remembrance of the Iranian forces martyred in Kurdistan province, he stated.

The commander noted that all of Iran’s missiles are now manufactured with pinpoint accuracy,

adding that all American bases in the region are within reach of the Iranian missiles.

The general went on to say that the U.S. superiority has been shaken after Iran developed its new hypersonic missile.

The hypersonic missile can maneuver outside the Earth’s atmosphere and defeat all anti-missile defense systems, the Aerospace Force chief added.

The Iranian hypersonic missile has a speed of over Mach 12, he added.

The commander also said that the IRGC has

managed to reduce the weight of its long-range missiles to one-fourth, increase the efficiency of their warheads by 10 times, and reduce the preparation time to one-sixth.

### Iran to develop supersonic missiles

IRGC chief commander General Hussein Salami also said Saturday that Iran will also develop supersonic cruise missiles.

Underlining the development of such missiles, General Salami said, “We in the IRGC have more than 325 big national projects. And there is a possibility that one such project be unveiled every week.”

## Iran to build new nuclear plant

TEHRAN – Iran’s top nuclear official said Saturday that the country will build a new nuclear power plant in the southwest province of Khuzestan.

The official, Mohammad Eslami, who is the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said the 360-MW nuclear plant, named Karun, will be built with domestic capabilities.

“The operation of equipping the Karun power plant construction workshop has started. We have concluded contracts for the required heavy equipment with domestic

industries, and we hope to see the construction of an all-Iranian power plant in accordance with international standards in the Darokhvein region in the future,” he said during a trip to Khuzestan.

He said, “Enemies tried to break our will with sanctions and did not cooperate with us regarding the construction of nuclear power plant even after many years.”

Eslami added, “Enemy sanctions include radiopharmaceuticals, energy, and other effects that nuclear

technology can have on people’s lives. But we decided to thwart the enemy’s goals by believing in our ability and by confronting the sanctions and follow the steps of success by using our internal strength and capacity. We can build a nuclear power plant in this region by trusting the internal forces and Iranian engineers, researchers and industrialists, because with the development of such power plants, we can provide stable electricity for Khuzestan and the southwestern region of the country.”

He stated, “The executive operation of the Karun power plant in Darokhvein started two months ago, and the aim of the Atomic Energy Organization to build a power plant in this area is to produce 2000 megawatts of electricity. In the preliminary phase, we will implement the production of 300 megawatts of electricity, and at the same time we will follow other steps so that we can make maximum use of the capacity created in the Darokhvein region.”

## Stoning Iran: Examining western media disinformation campaigns against Iran



Frome Page 1 ► with absolutely no experience or knowledge of Iran. Almost all of them are based on anonymous ‘witnesses’ or ‘victims’, whose claims are not independently verified. Some reports are by reporters who have direct links to royalist opposition groups, yet their political affiliations are hidden by Western media. Others reporters appear to have links to Western intelligence agencies which indicates political interests behind their reports.

One of the highly infuriating and disturbing reports was published in the Guardian with the title ‘Iranian forces shooting at faces and genitals of female protesters, medics say’ (8 Dec 2022). It quotes anonymous ‘doctors’ who say Basijis shoot at women’s genitals ‘because they have an inferiority complex. And they want to get rid of their sexual complexes’.

The text is a classic example of Orientalist mentality in othering and stereotyping. A highly dramatized and emotionally charged report, resembling Hollywood-style anti-Iran propaganda films such as “Not Without My Daughter”.

The report is co-authored by a young reporter named Deepa Parent. Her CV in LinkedIn indicates that before becoming an instant ‘Iran expert’ she worked in India for a property and relocation agency. Her profile on the Guardian shows that she has authored or contributed to 11 reports on Iran in just over a few weeks.

The co-other of the above report is another young reporter named Ghoncheh Habibiadz. Her LinkedIn profile states that she is employed by Marjan TV Network. This is the parent company of Manoto TV channel, a pro-monarchy network with the mission of glorifying the Pahlavi dynasty, one of the worst dictatorships of the 20th century. She has contributed to 6 reports on Iran in the Guardian just over a few weeks. Yet the Guardian introduces her to readers simply as ‘a digital news producer based in London.’

Almost all professional and ethical principles of journalism are violated to produce anti-Iran propaganda. As we remember from similar ‘rape’ and ‘viagra’ stories in Syria and Ukraine, these emotionally charged reports are usually cooked by Western intelligence services and fed to the media to ignite international anger in line with Western ‘strategic interests’, i.e war-mongering.

It’s a shame that apart from the usual war-mongering and sanctions-supporting media outlets such as Fox News and CNN, today even the Guardian and Channel 4 News in the UK have become sell outs, aligned with Western war machines.

## They are trying another form of punishment: stoning Iran with sham ‘investigative reports’ and fake news. They will fail again.

Another example is an ‘exclusive’ Channel 4 News television report, by another young reporter named Secunder Kermani (published Feb , 2023). He is a British reporter of Pakistani descent again with zero experience in or knowledge of Iran in his LinkedIn CV.

His report is a disturbing visual account of claims about rape and sexual assault by anonymous sources who are allegedly ‘Iranian female protesters’. Interestingly Kermani was the BBC correspondent in Pakistan. So as all BBC World Service employees, he was on the UK Foreign Office payroll.

The big question is why do media outlets such as the Guardian and Channel 4 News commission these young journalists with zero knowledge and experience on Iran to produce such highly sensitive reports about Iran? Are there no other experienced journalists available? Perhaps not all experienced

and respected journalists would go along with publishing such emotionally charged reports based on anonymous sources whose claims are by-and-large unverified. Reports that mainly serve as propaganda for Western intelligence services.

Something more interesting in Kermani’s Wikipedia profile, is that prior to being promoted to his post in Pakistan, this young reporter worked on ISIS recruits in the UK and ‘secured a number of exclusive interviews with members of ISIS’.

God knows how such a young journalist ‘secured’ exclusive access to ISIS suicide bombers! But such ‘experience’ gives us some indication of how he ‘secured’ exclusive access to ‘Iranian female protesters’ who claim to have been raped or sexually assaulted by Iranian police or security agents.

Of course, finding asylum seekers who would say anything to secure residence in the West, or members of opposition groups who would do so, is not as difficult as finding ISIS suicide bombers. But it is clear how in different ways both can serve the political interests of Western governments.

These disinformation campaigns backed by Western governments and intelligence agencies are actually very similar to the act of stoning. In the imperialist and colonialist discourse of Western governments and their mainstream media, Iran is guilty and should be severely punished. Iran is not an obedient subject of the imperialist system code named the ‘International Community’. Iran has not submitted to arrogant Western demands. 44 years after the Islamic Revolution, Iran remains an independent state perusing its legal rights and national interests.

It appears that Western governments have come to the conclusion that even imposing barbaric and vicious economic sanctions were not helpful in breaking Iran’s resilience. They are trying another form of punishment: stoning Iran with sham ‘investigative reports’ and fake news. They will fail again. The truth will prevail.

*“Professor Shahab Esfandiari is an Associate Professor at University of Arts, Tehran*



# IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

## Expert Cheraghpour lauds Foolad’s performance against Al Hilal

Frome Page 1 ► “Before talking about the game, we should consider some important issues to compare Foolad and Al Hilal conditions,” said Cheraghpour in his exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

“With a border vision on the facilities and infrastructures of two country’s football, whose representative are Foolad and Al Hilal, you can define your expectation from the both teams.

“The quality of the two leagues, the stadiums in both countries, the quality and the price of the players who play in the leagues and in particular the players of Foolad and Al Hila; the huge difference between the two teams in the aforementioned issues speaks for itself.

“In such a condition, Foolad did a great job against Al Hilal and deserve respect and compliments for their performance.

“Their tactical strategy was ‘sit back and counter attack’ and the Foolad players were successful in accomplishing the tactical issues. If Foolad were a little lucky, they even had the chance to score and win the match against the best Asian football club,” added the Iranian top expert.

Foolad player Roberto Torres’s excellent delivery into the box was headed just over the crossbar by Hamid Bou Hamdan, then Ehsan Pahlavan forced a fine save from Abdullah Al Mayouf after firing in from a narrow angle, while the Al Hilal goalkeeper had to recover and make a second excellent save after initially dropping the ball into the path of Torres.

Cheraghpour also talked about Javad Nekounam’s resignation two days before the match against Al Hilal. Foolad’s former head coach was replaced by Hamidreza Rajabi.

“It was Unprofessional. It was not a correct decision both morally and professionally. As a coach who has led a team for two or three times, you are not expected to leave your team on the eve of a big and important match,” Cheraghpour concluded.

## Iran in fierce battle for FIBA World Cup spot

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team are in a fierce battle for just one 2023 FIBA World Cup spot.

Team Melli are scheduled to play China on Sunday at the Tsuen Wan in Hong Kong, while Kazakhstan meet Australia in Melbourne in the same day.

Iran and Kazakhstan are in a fierce battle for just one World Cup spot. Iran can clinch a berth should they beat China. If Team Melli lose to China and Kazakhstan also fall short against Australia, Iran will advance to the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

Hosts Japan, Australia and China have previously qualified for the competition. The 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualification process will determine 30 of the 32 teams that will participate at the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

As co-hosts, the Philippines and Japan each got an automatic qualification for the tournament when they were awarded the joint hosting rights along with co-host Indonesia.

Similar to the 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualification, the format will be six windows over a 15-month period across all FIBA regions.

A total of 80 national teams compete during the qualification process.

The 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualification for the FIBA Asia-Oceania region began on 26 November 2021 and will conclude in February 2023.

## Felix Sanchez new candidate to lead Team Melli

TEHRAN – Former Qatar coach Felix Sanchez is a new candidate to lead Iran national football team.

The local media reports suggest that the 47-year-old Spanish coach has been shortlisted to take charge of Team Melli.

Sanchez parted ways with Qatar after 2022 FIFA World Cup, where Al Ennabi failed to register a single point in Group A.

Now, Sanchez has been linked with the vacant post.

The Spaniard was appointed as head coach of Qatar national football team in 2017 and his team won the 2019 AFC Asian Cup and were semifinalists at the 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Tractor Spanish coach Paco Jemez and Jose Morais, Portuguese coach of Sepahan, are also among the candidates to lead the Persians.

Iran Football Federation spokesperson Amirmehdi Alavi had previously said thet Herve Renard is among the candidates.

Maryam Monazzami named FFIRI vice president

TEHRAN – Maryam Monazzami was named the vice president of the Iranian women’s Football Federation.

She replaced Shohreh Mousavi, who was removed from her post due to her frequent absences in the meetings of the board of directors in January.

Mousavi is also facing financial problems, which led to her arrest in April 2022.

Monazzami, a former athlete, had previously worked as vice president in the wrestling and weightlifting federations.

## Former Iran coach Roger de Sa joins Qatar coaching staff

TEHRAN – South African coach Roger De Sa has joined Qatar football team coaching staff.

He is reuniting with Queiroz, who is succeeding Felix Sanchez after he led Qatar at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

De Sa and Queiroz first partnered when Queiroz was coaching the Portuguese national team at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. In 2022, they formed a formidable combination when they led Egypt to the finals of the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

The duo teamed up again when Iran recruited them for the 2022 World Cup campaign. Iran was knocked out of the tournament after a fierce fightback in the group stages.

Born in Mozambique, the two coaches will have their work cut out in attempting to lead Al Ennabi to the top tier of world football.

In the FIFA World Cup that Qatar hosted recently, it did not register a single point after losing all three group-stage matches.

## Iran Sports Minister Sajjadi in medically induced coma

TEHRAN – Iran Sports Minister Hamid Sajjadi is in medically induced coma in Tehran.

No visitors are allowed at the hospital due to speeding up the healing process.

Sajjadi suffered a head injury in a helicopter crash in the city of Baft, in the southern province of Kerman on Thursday.

Esmail Ahmadi, an advisor to the sports minister, was killed in the crash when the helicopter was landing on a football field.

16 other passengers, including four crew members, have been also injured.

## Iran U17 girls to participate at CAFA tournament

TEHRAN – Iran U17 girls football team will participate in CAFA championship.

The tournament will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from March 10 to 17.

The competition will bring Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan together.

The CAFA Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).



## Over 1,700 ha of land under greenhouse cultivation in Ardebil province

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 1,704 hectares of land are under greenhouse cultivation in Ardebil province, in the northwest of Iran.

Nader Taqizadeh, the head of the province's Agriculture Department, said that job creation in greenhouses of the province has been noticed in recent years with the investment of the private sector, and for every hectare of greenhouse, job is created for eight to 10 people.

He put the volume of agricultural products, including pepper, tomato, cucumber, as well as rose, produced in the greenhouses of Ardebil province at 10,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21, 2022).

As recently stated by the deputy agriculture minister, the development of greenhouse cultivation is a major policy of the Agriculture Ministry.

In this regard, several projects have been defined and introduced to the banks, and as soon as the notification is made, the projects will receive facilities and their implementation will begin, the official added.

In recent years, the water crisis has caused serious challenges in Iran's agriculture sector.

To solve this problem, several solutions, including the implementation of pressurized irrigation



project and greenhouse cultivation, have been emphasized by experts and officials in this sector.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of this ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector.

The program was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.

The development of the country's agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

## Over 2.6m tons of steel products exported in 10 months

TEHRAN- As announced by Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), 2.685 million tons of steel products were exported in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023).

Based on the ISPA data, the 10-month steel products export indicates two percent fall from the figure for the same period of time in the past year, which was 2.727 million tons.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

According to the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran's crude steel production increased by eight percent in

2022 when the production by the world's top 64 steelmakers declined by 4.2 percent.

According to the WSA data, Iran was ranked first among the world's top steel producers in terms of production growth in the previous year.

Based on the report, Iran produced 30.6 million tons of crude steel in the mentioned year.

Meanwhile, WSA stated that crude steel production by the world's top 64 producers fell 4.2 percent to stand at 1.787 billion in 2022.

According to the World Steel Association, similar to the past two years, Iran has maintained its 10th place among the world's top steel producers, after countries like China, India, Japan, and Russia.

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

## Domestic production of mining equipment saves Iran \$450m in 11 months

TEHRAN - Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) and its subsidiaries have managed to indigenize the knowledge for the production of \$450 million worth of mining equipment and machinery in the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-February 19, 2023).

Large companies active in mining and

mineral industries such as Mobarakeh Steel Company, Khuzestan Steel Company, Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, Golgozar Mining and Industrial Company, South Aluminum Corporation, Hormozgan Steel Company, Khorasan Steel Company, and Iran Alumina, have contributed to the domestic production of the mentioned equipment and machinery.

## 'FATF decision more in favor of money laundering, terrorist financing networks'

TEHRAN- Hadi Khani, the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRFIU) as well as the secretary of the High Council on Combating and Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing crimes, stated that taking such emotional and political positions of this body are contrary to its technical missions and mandates in facing the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing crimes.

He added: "We are witnessing the expansion of organized money laundering and terrorism

networks at the international level, and fighting against these dangerous phenomena requires cooperation, synergy, and convergence of the capacities of all countries. Thus, these types of decisions are more in favor of money laundering and terrorist financing networks."

He stated that it is not acceptable to destroy the unity and integrity of the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing in the world under the pretext of influencing political challenges.

## TEDPIX rises 82,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 82,188 points to 1.7 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 16.999 billion securities worth 105.53 trillion rials (about \$263.86 million) were traded at the TSE.

TEDPIX gained 132,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index lost 155,778 points (9.22 percent) in the previous Iranian calendar month Bahman (ended on February 19).

# Orchard reform plan leads to horticultural production growth

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Currently, orchards are the most important center of production of agricultural products for export in Iran, and horticulture is the most central sector in the country's agricultural export.

Therefore, the implementation of the orchard reform plan of the Agriculture Ministry, which is effective in the quality of production and the increase of gardeners' income, plays a noticeable part in the export of garden products.

In this due, the development of horticulture, improvement of gardens, development of dense cultivation to increase yield per unit area, use of modern irrigation systems, use of canopy to reduce risks in the horticulture sector, and increase the quality of produced products are among the most important programs in progress in the field of horticulture in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also conducted negotiations with companies that manufacture tools, equipment, and tractors for the development of mechanization in the field of horticulture in order to improve the mechanization factor in this field.



According to Mohammad-Mehdi Boroumandi, the deputy agriculture minister for horticulture affairs, Iran has a special position in the field of horticulture.

The official says that all researchers believe that the advantage of Iran's agriculture sector is horticulture because it creates more employment and brings a good foreign currency income.

He has mentioned the renovation of gardens as one of the important programs of the ministry and said: "The capacity

of agricultural production in the country is more than this and should be increased."

Referring to the important role of farmers and gardeners in maintaining food security, he pointed out that apart from four tropical fruits including bananas, coconuts, mangoes, and pineapples, the country is completely self-sufficient in providing other agricultural products.

On Thursday, the official announced the growth of the country's horticultural production in this Iranian calendar year

(which began on March 21, 2022), and said the country's production of garden products has reached 25.7 million tons this year.

Underlining that Iran has achieved good success in the field of food security, Boroumandi pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture, as the ministry of food security, despite the climatic problems and all the economic constraints, has managed to earn good foreign currency in addition to meeting the domestic needs and food security of the country.

Referring to the over \$6-billion agricultural income of the country, in addition to meeting the domestic needs, the official pointed out that in the field of horticulture, the output has increased by 1.7 million tons this year, despite natural disasters such as floods and frost.

Back in January, the official said the Agriculture Ministry is trying to manage production by identifying new export target markets.

"Production, which is more than consumption, can be included in the country's trade basket. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to experience an increase in production per surface unit by implementing regular programs", he added.

## Iran's annual export to India rises 60%

from page 1 ► Rice was India's major product exported to Iran in the said period during which the country shipped \$1.098 billion worth of rice to the Islamic Republic.

In late May 2022, the Iranian ambassador to India said that Iran and India are trying to diversify the channels of payments to expand bilateral trade.

In an exclusive interview with Financial Express Online, Ali Chegeni said, "We are trying to diversify the channels of payments and accordingly wish to extend and expand an already existing mechanism in order to cover all of the goods and services including all of the non-oil goods and to achieve this".



During the past two years, because of Covid restrictions, we pursue the issue via virtual

dialogues and currently, our officials are following the matter through the exchange of delegations, the envoy stated at the time.

"We want to develop our economic and trade relations beyond energy and petrochemical products. because, due to the complementarity of Iran and India's economies, an extensive range of non-oil trade exists between the two sides including trade on goods and services, investment, tourism, education, and ... which may pave the way for multiplying our economic relations ten times more than current relations in mid and long terms", Chegeni said.

## Iran becomes world 11th largest automaker in 2022: ACEA



TEHRAN - European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), in its latest annual report, has ranked Iran as the world's 11th largest

automaker in 2022, IRIB reported.

According to the ACEA report, Iran's position among the world's top automakers has improved by eight places in 2022 compared to the previous year. The Islamic Republic was ranked 19th in the ACEA list of the world's top automakers in 2021.

Based on the mentioned report, Iranian automakers managed to manufacture 1,085,859 vehicles in 2022 to register a 10.8-percent growth compared to 979,969 cars in 2021.

## NIDC digs 93 oil, gas wells in 11 months

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operations of 93 oil and gas wells during the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-February 19, 2023), an official with the company said.

According to Masoud Afshar, the deputy head of NIDC for drilling operations, the drilled wells consisted of 14 development, five exploratory, and 74 workover ones, Shana reported.

The official stated that during the mentioned time span NIDC managed to dig 22 wells more than the figure for the previous year's same period.

As reported, 72 of the drilled wells were in the operational zone of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), eight wells were drilled in the fields under the supervision of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), seven in the fields under the operation of Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), four in the

operational zone of the drilling management department of the National Iranian Oil company (NIOC) and two wells were dug in fields developed by private contractors.

Since the beginning of this year, the drilling area of the wells has reached 63,486 meters, he said and added that 19 drilling rigs are being relocated to the operational positions.

NIDC owns 70 light, heavy, and super-heavy drilling rigs, including 67 onshore drilling rigs and three offshore rigs, of which 62 were active in the first 11 months of the current year.

Back in July 2022, NIDC Head Hamidreza Golpayegani said his company has signed several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the country's knowledge-based companies to cooperate in various areas including research, technology, construction engineering, procurement, and equipment affairs.

## Over \$12m expended for infrastructures development in Qom industrial parks

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, five trillion rials (about \$12.5 million) has been expended for the development of infrastructures in the industrial parks in Qom province since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022).

Akbar Ebdali, the head of the

province's Industry, Mining and Trade, also said that the figure is estimated to pass seven trillion rials (about \$17.5 million) by the end of this year.

"Qom's industrial parks are always the focus of investors and entrepreneurs for various reasons, such as having suitable facilities for creating a production unit,

being close to the capital and major markets of Iran, as well as access to the country's communication highways, and for this reason the development of infrastructure in these parks is very important", the official added.

As previously announced by Mohsen Omidian, the deputy

governor-general of Qom for economic affairs coordination, 44 idle production units have been revived in Qom province in the current Iranian calendar year.

The official said that the mentioned units returning to the production cycle have created direct jobs for 600 persons.



# All you need to know about the Ukraine war

From page 1 ► Meanwhile over the past decade, despite repeated warnings by Moscow, NATO has been expanding eastwards towards the Russian border.

Further expansion by the U.S.-led military alliance triggered alarm in Moscow which warned NATO to avoid dangerous steps that pose a threat to Russia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Amid the massive NATO buildup of forces coupled with advanced and sophisticated weapons that can strike the heart of Russia, the Kremlin sought security guarantees from the U.S. and NATO itself.

These were effectively ignored by both the U.S. and NATO.

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched attack on Ukraine, calling it a "special military operation". It cited several reasons for the attack, including the stance of the government in Kyiv, attacks on ethnic Russians in the Donbas region, and NATO expansion to the borders of Ukraine.

Ukraine and its Western backers argue that the conflict waged by Russia was unprovoked.

### CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

As things stand, the fighting in flashpoint regions of eastern and southern Ukraine show no signs of ending.

Moscow has annexed four regions in Ukraine where mostly ethnic Russians reside, following a referendum by the people in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia and Kherson.

Ukraine and its Western backers have dismissed the votes as a sham.

The war has seen suffering on both sides, but mostly in Ukraine which has witnessed a high death toll and millions displaced, although a significant proportion of those have returned home.

### SANCTIONS

The U.S. and its Western allies have imposed unprecedented sanctions on Russia.

From the freezing of 330 billion dollars of Russian assets to the silencing of all Russian media outlets, the Western sanctions regime continues to this day and has targeted almost all sectors of Russian society, even to the extent of banning Russian athletes from international sports tournaments.

The sanctions have failed to end the war.

On the other hand, they have backfired mostly on the people of Europe.

According to IMF forecasts in 2023, the UK economy will be worse off than sanction-hit Russia.



### INFLATION

If anything, Western sanctions on Russian energy and wheat have backfired on Europe and beyond.

Europe has faced an energy crisis this winter. It was dependent on cheap Russian gas for 40% of the continent's consumption.

Europe is now filling the gap by purchasing U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) at "astronomical" prices.

This has spearheaded record inflation levels in European households, which has in turn seen waves of protests and strikes in many European countries paralyzing the public sectors.

But it's a major income boost for U.S. energy firms.

### U.S. ROLE

The United States is widely believed to have instigated the war in its efforts to contain Russia.

Washington has by far been the largest supplier of weapons to Ukraine.

The Pentagon has been shipping weapons to the tune of tens of billions of dollars. The White House has repeatedly announced fresh military packages for Kyiv.

Yet that doesn't mean NATO members have not chipped in.

The U.S. and other Western arms manufacturers have made very lucrative profits from the war, which is why many experts argue that they want the conflict to continue as long as possible.

By the same token, Russia and other countries say pouring weapons into the warzone has not and will not end the conflict. Moscow says the arms deliveries will only increase the suffering of Ukrainians and prolong the war.

Kyiv argues it needs more advanced weapons, such as battle tanks, to repel Russian forces in the country's east. There are major question marks as to whether these weapons will change anything on the battlefield.

Some European Parliament lawmakers have said the war serves the interests of the U.S. and not the interests of Europeans.

### WHY CAN'T EUROPE END VIOLENCE ON ITS DOORSTEP?

After the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in August 2021 and the embarrassing scenes of U.S.-led forces fleeing the country, repetitious statements were made by the European Union about the need to distance itself from the military affairs of the U.S. in different parts of the world.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Europe needs to develop its own military capacity independent of the United States.

The 27-member bloc revived debates about Europe developing the means to act independently from the U.S.

The EU reiterated it needed to develop diplomatic and military muscle and what France's President Emmanuel Macron termed as "strategic autonomy".

"Some countries are going to have to ask themselves questions about an American ally which, as Joe Biden said, doesn't want to fight other people's wars for them.

"The Europeans don't have a choice. We must organize ourselves to deal with the world as it is and not the world that we dream of," Borrell said.

"We have to analyze how the EU can further deploy capabilities and positively influence international relations to defend its interests. Our EU strategic autonomy remains at the top of our agenda."

As Europe tried to be sovereign instead of taking directions from Washington, it failed to do so, as witnessed five months later with the eruption of war in Ukraine.

The Europeans understood perfectly that they are still defenseless, both militarily and diplomatically.

They don't have the means to significantly contribute in ending a conflict on their doorsteps.

All the European ducks have lined up and have taken their marching orders from Washington again, with a very few exceptions.

The Europeans are unable to take themselves out of this fatal subservience to the Americans.

### ACCUSATIONS AGAINST IRAN AND CHINA

The U.S. and NATO have accused Tehran and Beijing of providing arms to Russia to use in the Ukraine war. Both countries have dismissed the allegations as ludicrous, saying they have been working with both parties to find a political solution to the conflict.

Russia has also rejected reports that it has received weapons from any third party.

### INTERNATIONAL POSITION

While the West claims the international community stands in solidarity against Russia, the facts on the ground suggest otherwise.

However, a considerable number of countries have taken a neutral stance toward the war.

NATO does not represent the international community, despite statements by its Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg.

The international community is calling for a peaceful resolution, something the U.S. has stood firmly against.

### WHO HAS BENEFITED?

The winner of this war has been the United States.

It has been successful in triggering a conflict in Europe to try and contain Russia's growing power.

It has also kept the Europeans away from warming ties with Moscow, while ending the sale of Russian gas to the continent by "bombing" Nord Stream pipelines that delivered Russia's cheap gas to European consumers.

Many experts also say the U.S. has pitted and provoked Russia and Ukraine against each other, in a similar fashion to other conflicts instigated by the Pentagon.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Lukashenko to visit China next week

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko will visit China on February 28 for a state visit, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Saturday.

Lukashenko is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and has backed Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Belarus dependent on its neighbour both financially and politically.

"At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko will pay a state visit to China from February 28 to March 2," spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

Last September, Xi and Lukashenko announced an "all-weather" strategic partnership, when they met in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.

In a phone call on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told his Belarusian counterpart Sergei Aleinik that Beijing was willing to work with Minsk to deepen mutual political trust, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

China will also continue to support Belarus in maintaining its national stability, and will oppose attempts by "external forces" to interfere in its internal affairs or impose "illegal" unilateral sanctions on Minsk, Qin told Aleinik.

### Magnitude 5.3 earthquake jolts Turkey's central Nigde province

A magnitude 5.3 earthquake has shaken the central Anatolian Turkish province of Nigde, the Kandilli earthquake monitoring centre said, just over two weeks after two devastating earthquakes that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

Saturday's earthquake had a depth of 7km (4.34 miles) and hit the Bor district at 1:27pm (10:27 GMT), the Turkish disaster management agency AFAD said. No casualties have been reported so far.

### North Korea says US drills amount to 'declaration of war'

North Korea has warned that it will soon consider US military action near its borders as a "declaration of war," issuing a harsh response after American diplomats pressed the United Nations to condemn recent weapons tests by the DPRK.

Senior Foreign Ministry official Kwon Jeong-geun, who oversees US affairs, issued a statement on Friday to "strongly protest" a UN Security Council meeting held earlier this week, where Washington proposed a measure to denounce Pyongyang's latest ballistic missile launches.

Such a move would be a "clear violation of our state's right to self-defense," Kwon said, adding "if the UN Security Council sincerely intends to contribute to ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, it will have to condemn acts that escalate military tension, such as the

deployment of strategic assets and large-scale joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea."

The official went on to say those actions have largely been "ignored" by the international community, warning of "strong countermeasures" should North Korea's concerns continue to go unheeded.

### Trade resumes as Pakistan, Afghanistan reopen Torkham crossing

The usual trade and movement of people between Pakistan and Afghanistan have fully resumed after the two sides reopened a key border crossing that was closed nearly a week ago by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, stranding people and thousands of trucks carrying food and essential items.

The Torkham border crossing was reopened as of 6 am (0130 GMT) Saturday, Afghan customs official Muslim Khaksar said at the waypoint in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, according to AFP news agency. "The border is now open from both sides for civilians as well as for traders," he said.

The Afghan embassy in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, also announced the reopening of the Torkham border on Twitter.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani customs official said "trucks carrying rice, cement, construction material, medicines and other edibles were sent to Afghanistan", adding that lorries loaded with coal, vegetables, and fruits had entered Pakistan, AFP reported. Around 1,400 trucks on the Pakistan side were still waiting to cross into Afghanistan, he added.

### China to continue to play responsible, constructive role in addressing Ukraine crisis: envoy

China is ready to continue to play a responsible and constructive role in resolving the Ukraine crisis, a Chinese envoy said Friday, while expounding China's position on the political settlement of the conflict in Ukraine.

Addressing a high-level Security Council briefing on Ukraine, Dai Bing, charge d'affaires of China's permanent mission to the United Nations, said that China issued earlier Friday a paper stating its position on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

"We have always taken an objective and impartial stance based on the merits of the issue," he said. Dai stressed that when handling and solving international disputes, universally recognized international law, including the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, must be upheld.

The sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all countries must be effectively guaranteed. Observing universally recognized international law and the basic norms governing international relations bears on the stability of the international system and international fairness and justice. They should be equally and uniformly applied in every place and on every issue without exception, he said.



The Yemeni people poured into the streets of Sana'a, the capital, on Friday to show their protest against the Saudi invasion of their homeland and support the Palestinian nation.

## International campaign to launch popular convoy to break Syria blockade

A pan-Arab international campaign has announced plans for launching a popular convoy to confront the long-running blockade imposed by the United States and the European Union on Syria, which is currently suffering the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that has so far claimed thousands of lives and left as many destitute across the Arab country.

The Arab and International Campaign to Break Siege on Syria made the announcement on Friday after a meeting headed by its general coordinator Magdi al-Masrawi, former secretary-general of the Arab National Congress, official SANA news agency reported.

"The conferees studied a proposal to launch an Arab popular convoy from the west of the Arab world to its east under the title "The Arab Unity Convoy to Break the Embargo Imposed on Syria" similar to the "Convoy of Arab Unity, Maryam" to break the siege on Iraq, which started at the beginning of the current century

from London towards Morocco, then towards Iraq," the campaign said.

According to the statement, it was agreed that members of the committee, along with members of the General Arab Conference, personalities and parties in solidarity with Syria, would conduct contacts in order to make the initiative a success.

The disastrous earthquake hit Turkey and neighboring Syria earlier this month, killing more than 50,000 in both countries, according to the latest figures which are updated daily.

As rescue efforts continue in Syria following massive earthquakes there, calls are growing for the US and its European allies to remove their sanctions, which are said to be hampering international aid efforts in the country.

Syria has been a target of US sanctions since 1979. Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, the US and its Western allies have dramatically tightened their

economic sanctions and restrictions on the Arab country.

The US sanctions intensified with the passing of the Caesar Act in 2019, which targeted any individual and business that participated either directly or indirectly in Syria's reconstruction efforts.

The restrictive measures have blocked imports of essential goods, affecting the Syrian people's access to medical equipment, food, heating, gas, and electricity. The sanctions have effectively cut Syria off from the global economy, leaving it dependent on a handful of allied states like Russia and Iran.

The UN says over five million people in Syria have been affected by the earthquake and need shelter, food, and medicine. The disaster has multiplied the suffering of Syrians who have endured years of foreign-backed war and western sanctions that left millions dead, displaced, and impoverished.

(Source: Press TV)



## Former royal ensemble to host Noruz celebrations

TEHRAN – Several festivities and rituals will be held at Dowlatkhaneh Safavi, a 17th-century royal ensemble in the west-central province of Qazvin, during the Noruz holidays (starting March 21), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A variety of ritual programs are held in all areas and courtyards of the monument, while folk music and cultural events are also included in the schedule, Alireza Khazaeli explained on Saturday.

A sales exhibition of handicrafts is also planned to be organized on the sidelines of the program, the official added.

Dowlatkhaneh Safavi, composed of some historical monuments, some of which have been destroyed over time, was once a royal ensemble and residential complex for Safavid monarchs (1501–1736).

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a

wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book “The Valleys of the Assassins.”

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais in the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of Iran.

## Visual distortion: building to be flattened near Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System

TEHRAN – Iranian tourism ministry will demolish a building situated near the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System after it has purchased the property in a bid to restore the visual layout of the UNESCO-registered site.

An abandoned school, the building will be demolished based on an agreement reached by the tourism ministry and the ministry of education, CHTN reported on Saturday.

The move will help to minimize visual distortion of the World Heritage site on the one hand, and provide additional space for the sightseers, the report said.

The UNESCO site embraces a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls as well as some bridges, weirs, tunnels, and canals.

The property is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius, the Great, the Achaemenid king.

Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System is rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system).

# Bandian complex offers time travels to Sassanid era

From Page 1 ► The flat ceiling of the building was supported by four lime columns in the hall. Interesting structural features include the strengthening of the columns. The mihrab (arched niche) of the structure is another noteworthy feature.

The spacious hall is covered in numerous stucco reliefs that show scenes from a hunt, battle, triumph, ritual, investiture, and banquet. In the Hephthalite-Persian Wars, Persian victories are depicted in it.

Available evidence suggests that the complex dates back to the reign of Peroz (459–484 CE) or his son Kavad I (488–497 CE).

The Sassanid era is of very high significance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, various arts and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

The palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan



are examples of grandiose architecture that frequently adopted oversized proportions in that epoch.

Metalworking and gem

engraving were two examples of highly developed crafts. Books were translated into Pahlavi, the Sassanian language, during that period from both the East and the West.

Top examples of Sassanian art can be found at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran. Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely regarded as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanian art.

The Sassanids' efforts also resulted in a resurgence of Iranian nationalism; for instance, Zoroastrianism was proclaimed the state religion.

In the years 637 to 651, Arab invaders overthrew the dynasty that Ardashir I helped create. The dynasty was given its name in honor of Ardashir I's ancestor Sasan.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape shows how the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization were built using an extremely effective system of land use and careful consideration of the local topography.

## Bafq potential gateway for desert tourism



TEHRAN – The oasis city of Bafaq has a high capacity to become a hub for desert tourism in Iran.

“Covering more than 1,000 ha in area, Bafaq desert holds the great capacity to become a hub for desert tourism in Iran,” Bafaq's tourism chief said on Saturday.

Usually, the picturesque desert of Bafaq

welcomes more than 300,000 tourists during [the two-week] Noruz (Iranian New Year) holidays, Leyli Ranjbar said.

The number of people visiting the Bafaq desert is expected to increase by more than 10% this year due to the lifting of the coronavirus restrictions, the official said.

Even on winter days, when the weather is mostly mild in this region, the desert landscape can provide unique memories for nature lovers and holidaymakers, she explained.

Bafaq desert, also known as Kavir-e Dar Anjir, is a desert near Bafaq county, Yazd province. It is seventy-five-kilometer long and twenty-kilometer wide, spanning one hundred and fifty square kilometers.

Argillaceous minerals and salt marsh make up sixty percent of the soil in this desert. In fact, the south and northwest of this desert are covered

in argillaceous mineral lands.

Though deserts can be some of the most discouraging places for travel. However, there is a growing number of people across the globe flocking to arid regions for hiking, camping, rock climbing, and natural photography.

Those looking for a change of pace have increasingly turned to desert tourism over the years. Unexpectedly, the desert is a great place to defrost and soak up the sun during the chilly winter months.

Iran offers some of the best places for desert travel, and the most popular destinations include, Dasht-e kavir, Maranjab Desert, Rig-e Jenn (“Dune of the Jinn”), and Shahdad Desert.

Some say the cold season doesn't feel or appear to be present during the winter. Moreover, the splendor and beauty of uninhabited deserts are unmatched anywhere else on Earth

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

**INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1401/108-105/03**  
**RENEWAL**

**Tender Holder:**  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)**

**Subject of Tender :**  
Leasing 8 MHz space segment on Azerspace Satellite for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**  
From **Monday 27 Feb 2023 (1401/12/08) 09:30 a.m until Wednesday 01 March 2023 (1401/12/10) by 02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

**Place of receiving the tender document:**  
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

**The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:**  
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

**Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:**  
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 20000 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 9/800/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

**Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:**  
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:30 a.m. on Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20)** at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

**Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:**  
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

**Time and place of opening Envelopes:**  
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20) at 14:00 p.m** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.  
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.  
Fore more information please see :  
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

**INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1401/103-72/03**

**Tender Holder:**  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)**

**Subject of Tender :**  
Leasing 9 MHz space segment on Eutelsat21B Satellite for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**  
From **Monday 27 Feb 2023 (1401/12/08) 09:30 a.m until Wednesday 01 March 2023 (1401/12/10) by 02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

**Place of receiving the tender document:**  
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

**The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:**  
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

**Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:**  
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 24485 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 11/997/600/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

**Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:**  
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:30 a.m. on Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20)** at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

**Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:**  
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

**Time and place of opening Envelopes:**  
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 09 April 2023 (1402/01/20) at 14:00 p.m** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.  
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.  
Fore more information please see :  
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB





© Tehran Times/ Mohsen Rezaei

## West's portrayal of Iranian women is far from reality

From page 1 ► Their portrayal of Iranian women is that of a deprived, under-pressure woman who has no effective activity, while Iranian women have contributed greatly to scientific, health, and environmental development as well as entrepreneurship.

In support of my words, foreign guests who attended the International Congress for Women of Influence said that what they were seeing here was totally different from what they had previously heard.

For instance, one guest from Japan said Iranian women were more advanced than Japanese women.

**What are the plans of the Office of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs to introduce Iranian women to the world?**

As part of our efforts, we use media and multimedia to introduce the elites. We also produce short films and promotional items about women who have made contributions to a variety of industries.

We are also trying to build a bridge between women in Iran and other countries while traveling, portraying the reality of Iranian women.

**The First International Congress for Women of Influence was recently held. Could you tell us a little bit about the goals of this event and why it was organized?**

The congress aimed to introduce Iran and the achievements of Iranian women, in particular.

The literacy rate among women was almost 30 percent. Now, the rate is nearly 95 percent.

It was also held to boost interaction with international women of influence, and finally, to establish economic links between Iran and other countries.

It is for sure that these activities will continue in social sectors, such as human rights, in order to help women who are underprivileged in certain countries.

This congress, for instance, decided to support Afghan women and allow them to continue their education in Iran.

**What feedback did you get from**

**the foreign guests?**

Their first and most important concern was that this event was much needed and that it was held late and that the Islamic Republic of Iran should have done something like this earlier.

We were told by the guests that it would be great to see this type of activity would continue and that Iranian women's achievements would be introduced.

**There are many accomplished women working abroad. How well-known is this group, and do you have any connections with them?**

Some of them have been identified, but more needs to be done to support them and bring them to Iran for training and better development.

After the revolution, Iranian women have made tremendous progress and achievements in various fields. Please tell us why we have not been able to show progress to the world as decent as possible.

It is unfortunate that we are weak in terms of media coverage, and that the social and economic progress of women has not been properly reflected.

Before the Islamic revolution, the

literacy rate was almost 30 percent among women. Now, the rate is nearly 95 percent. Life expectancy for women that was 56 years before the revolution is now 78 years as a result of the women's health program.

Furthermore, health insurance coverage for pregnant women and for infertility treatment is another achievement.

Although there are still some limitations, we see that Iranian women have attained great progress in the fields of arts, sports, and economics.

**In a recent TV program, you said that the motto of "Woman, Life, and Freedom" is rooted in Islam and our revolution. Explain a little about this.**

The Prophet of Islam revived women and honored them.

Imam Khomeini was also committed to encouraging women to come into society and make progress. Moreover, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, has always stressed the importance of respecting housekeeping as an important responsibility.

Life expectancy was 56 years among women before the Revolution, while is now 78 years.

**Have you ever had a meeting with the Leader to give a report on women's issues? What feedback have you received from him?**

Last year, we wrote a letter to the Leader, saying why only men and poets are invited on women's day, which is the birthday of Hazrat Zahra (SA) since this day is for women and they have the right to be invited.

The Leader's answer was "you are right". This year, you saw that women were also invited to visit the Leader in a beautiful ceremony.

## Where and when next major earthquakes may occur?

From page 1 ► Are the next strong earthquakes with the same magnitudes possible in the coming years?

The opening of the Red Sea is associated with the convergence of the Arabian and Eurasian plates.

At the leading edge of the Arabian Plate, the folded Zagros Mountains shortening in the last ten thousand years at a rate of 20 mm per year has resulted in major episodes of coastal uplift, the last of which was 1700 BC.

In the transform, Jordan rift, which bounds the Arabian plate in the west, a return period of about 1600 years has been reported for ML 5.5 events.

The paleomagnetic record for the last 3.2 million years shows that the average rate of extension for the Red Sea is about 20 mm/yr.

There is evidence that hydrothermal activity in the Red Sea is pulsatile with a return period of 2000 years, indicating discontinuous expansion.

The Holocene neotectonic record of the Zagros, Jordan Rift, and the Red Sea is the product of complex plate interactions and the accumulation and release of strain in the crust along the plate margin.

But they also reflect the storage and release of elastic strain energy in the Arabian plate, from which parallels the major deformation periods in the three deformation zones and the apparent discrepancy between the seismic moment predicted by the plate kinematics and that recorded in the Zagros.

Any in-plane deformation, if detected geodetically, helps in seismic hazard assessment.

At the beginning of 2023, about 180 million people live on the Arabian Plate, and about half of them live on the borders of this plate (about 90 million people), on the other hand, about 20 million people live in Iran - in the Zagros Mountains - and 10 million in Turkey (southeast of Anatolia) and about 15 million in Egypt and Sudan, adjacent to the Arabian Plate boundaries.

Therefore, a population of over 135 million people lives on or near the borders of the Arabian Peninsula. Earthquake risk for cities near these borders, such as Beirut, Damascus, Aleppo, Gaziantep, Diyarbakir, Shiraz, Ahvaz, Bushehr, Bandar Abbas, Kuwait City, Doha, Dubai, Manama, Medina, Jeddah, Sanaa, Aden, and Cairo, are exposed to the most possible damages caused by the next earthquakes are on the boundaries of the Arabian plate.

On the other hand, the Arabian Plate currently contains 48% of the world's oil reserves and 43% of the world's natural gas reserves.

The Arabian plate experienced approximately 570 million years of uninterrupted sedimentation, an ideal environment for hydrocarbon generation.

We try to answer this important question: What are the next most important possibilities for the rupture of the faults in the borders, and the future large earthquake events to be destructive for the



cities on the edge of this plate?

The earthquakes occurred on February 6, 2023, in Turkey along the active Eastern Anatolian fault.

The active Eastern Anatolian fault system is about 700 km long and defines the northern border of the Arabian plate with the Eurasian (Anatolian) plate.

The friction between the blocks produced by this movement releases energy in the form of earthquakes. Faults can rupture as often as once every few decades to hundreds of years, such as the ruptures on 6 February 2023 in the East Anatolian Fault system.

Today's movements in and around the Arabian plate include a wide range of tectonic processes including subduction, continental collision, seafloor spreading, intra-plate magmatism, and continental transform faulting.

*Zare is a professor at Earthquake Prediction Center, IIEES*

To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 20,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

The Welfare Organization and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 20,000 housing units for the financially struggling families, Mehr reported.

Alireza Tabesh, the Foundation's head, and Vahid Qobadi Dana, the Organization's head, inked the MOU during a meeting held in Tehran on Monday.

As per the agreement, 20,000 housing units will be provided to breadwinners with disabilities, breadwinner women, and the ex-addicts under the Organization's coverage residing in villages with a population of less than 25,000, Qobadi Dana explained.

## احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسكونی برای محرومان

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر تفاهم نامه مشترک برای احدث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسكونی برای محرومان بين بنياد مسكن انقلاب اسلامى و سازمان بهزيستى کشور منعقد شد. تفاهم نامه احدث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسكونى روستايى با حضور عليرضا تابش رئيس بنياد مسكن انقلاب اسلامى ووحيد قبادى دانارئيس سازمان بهزيستى کشورروز دوشنبه به امضارسيد. قبادى دانا گفت: اين تفاهم نامه به منظور ساخت ۲۰ هزار واحد مسكونى برای معلولين سرپرست خانوار، زنان سرپرست خانوار، و بهبوديافتگان از بلای اعتياد که در روستاها و شهرهاى با جمعيت کمتر از ۲۵ هزار نفر ساکن و تحت پوشش بهزيستى هستند؛ منعقد مى‌شود.

## First mRNA-based COVID vaccine starts clinical trial



TEHRAN – In a ceremony at Imam Khomeini hospital in Tehran, the clinical trial of the first domestically produced mRNA-based vaccine for the coronavirus started on Saturday.

The first vial of this vaccine was produced two years ago, and with the injection of the first vial of this vaccine, this plan has entered clinical trials, ISNA reported.

For the production of the vaccine, processes such as vaccine design, genetic engineering (DNA structures), mRNA production and purification, formulation, and quality control have been implemented.

Conducting pre-clinical studies on rats and monkeys, obtaining relevant approvals and licenses, and conducting human clinical studies in three phases are among the measures taken in the trial phase.

Currently, among the vaccine platforms, the four models of inactivated virus, recombinant, vaccines based on adenovirus vector, and mRNA are preferred over others.

The results of the preclinical studies showed

that by injecting this type of vaccine, the amount of neutralizing antibodies is greater than in other types of vaccines.

The durability of the antibody is also quite significant. In this way, more effectiveness of this type of vaccine in preventing the infection of COVID-19 will be expected.

Iran is the sixth country in the world and the first country in West Asia to gain the ability to produce the Coronavirus vaccine.

The country has been able to reduce the COVID mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, and this successful experience of the Islamic Republic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said in May 2022.

Considering that five coronavirus vaccines have so far been produced domestically, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said in June 2021 that Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms.

## WORLD RAMSAR SITES

### Sundarbans Reserved Forest

Sundarbans Reserved Forest is located in the great wetland created at the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna River in Bangladesh.

It is considered as one of the largest contiguous mangrove forest of the world, which is under scientific management for a long time.

The Sundarbans is extremely rich in flora and fauna and many of them are economically important.

It is the home of a number of unique species of plants like Sundri, Gewa, Passur, Dhundhul, animals like Bengal tiger, Estuarine crocodile, Masked Fin Foot and rare species of shark (Glephys gangeticus).

The Sundarbans mangrove forests supports critically endangered, vulnerable and endemic species.

Many floral and faunal species are globally and nationally endangered or critically endangered due to the ecological imbalance.

Among the fauna, endangered Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigris tigris) listed in the IUCN Red Book, vulnerable Pallas Fishing Eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus), vulnerable Masked Finfoot (Heliopais personata), and critically endangered River Terrapin (Batagur baska) are all listed in the IUCN Red Book.

The Sundarbans ecosystem is totally dependent on hydrological regimes and their particular characteristics.

Fresh water supply is very important for the productivity of the Sundarbans, which include the plant growth as well as fish production. The Sundarbans play a very important role to prevent the

tidal surge generated from the cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal.

It is known that the coastline from the center of the Sundarbans toward east has remained virtually unchanged over the last 200 years.

### Noteworthy flora

Sundarbans have a considerably high floral diversity.

A total of 245 genera and 334 plant species were recorded in this forest. All the plant species found in the Sundarbans are growing naturally and considered as indigenous.

There is no knowledge of endemic, exotic and invasive species in Sundarbans. The Sundri (Heritiera fomes) is considered threatened due to the occurrence of a disease commonly known as top dying Sundri disease.

### Noteworthy fauna

It is known that there are 289 terrestrial faunal species of 185 genera and 219 aquatic faunal species of 146 genera in the Sundarbans Forests.

The most recent list of species indicates that at least 315 species representing 48 percent of the birds of Bangladesh are found in Sundarbans Ramsar site.

Of these, 84 species are migratory making the Sundarbans a valuable location for passage of migration.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



## Garmsar Salt Cave is worth its salt

The salt tunnel in the northcentral city of Garmsar is one of the most amazing natural attractions and a great choice for nature lovers and tourists.

With more than 40 salt mines, Garmsar holds the lion's share of salt extraction in the country.



TEHRAN TIMES



[www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com)

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: [info@tehrantimes.com](mailto:info@tehrantimes.com)  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.O. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Loving humanity is second only to having faith in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17    Evening: 18:14    Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:38 (tomorrow)

Iran: classical Persian literature

Part 10

He was born and died in Ganja, located west of the Caspian Sea, in a domain ruled by the Seljuk atabaks, far from the main centers where Persian literature came into being, but in close contact with Christian communities.

Though he dedicated his poems to princes and was rewarded accordingly, he managed to maintain his independence from them.

His poetry shows a keen interest in the life of ordinary people as well as much curiosity about ancient historical sites and the legends surrounding them. In his poems he addressed his son on three different occasions, when he was 7 years, then 14, and finally 21.

The first of his five ‘Treasures’ was influenced by Sanai of Ghazna’s (d. 1131) monumental Garden of Truth (Hadiqa al-hadiq wa shari’a al-tariqa).

The other ‘Treasures’ were medieval romances. Khosrow and Shirin, Bahram-e Gur, and Alexander the Great, who all have episodes devoted to them in Ferdowsi’s Book of Kings, appear again here at the center of three of four of Nezami’s narrative poems.

The adventure of the paired lovers, Leyli and Majnun, is the subject of the second of his four romances, and derived from Arabic sources.

In all these cases, Nezami reworked the material from his sources in a substantial way. He also left behind some fine lyrical poetry.

The narrative poetry of Nezami: pinnacles of medieval poetic thought. Highly individualized, Nezami’s work bears all the hallmarks of his predilection for hermetic and esoteric writings and sciences.

Although there were thriving sufi associations in existence at the time, he did not himself become a member of any specific group. He maintained that the Word was his refuge and monastery.

His first major poem, the Treasury of Secrets (Makhzan al-asrar), already referred to, was composed in 1174. Designed as a series of ethical counsels for the benefit of the prince, it reflects the writing of a sage secluded from the world.

Taken together with its prototype, the already mentioned work by Sanai, it suggests an attempt by men of spiritual eminence to replace some of the functions of court counselors and advisors in the sphere of courtly education.

Twenty chapters, each containing a didactic message and an exemplum serving as an attractive illustration, are mostly aimed at a prince or ruler. The poem continued to enjoy great popularity in later periods and courts.

The death of his beloved wife, and the perusal of Gorgani’s Vis o Ramin, inspired Nezami’s second major narrative poem: Khosrow and Shirin (1181), his first masterpiece.

It has a complex structure with several genres exploited simultaneously; and contains many verbal exchanges and letters, all imbued with lyrical intensity.

Shirin, an Armenian princess, is of the same proud and aristocratic mettle as Vis, both ardently faithful to their declared love and daring enough to force the hand of Fate, a Destiny that plays, in the case of Shirin, upon the weaknesses and youthful foibles of her lover, Khosrow Parviz, grandson of Khosrow I. The latter must endure long journeys,

physical and spiritual, before returning to Shirin, his true love. Like Panthea, Shirin commits suicide over the body of her murdered husband.

Pure and selfless love is represented here embodied in the figure of Farhad, secretly in love with Shirin, who finally falls victim to the king’s ire and jealousy.

It is precisely this pure love, in the great Arab tradition of courtly love (hobb al-ozri) that inspired Nezami’s Leyli o Majnun, dedicated to the ruler of Shirvan in 1188.

The legal interdiction of marriage between Majnun and Leyli, in love with each other ever since their childhood, drives Majnun to his madness (Khairallah), the very subject of Nezami’s poem.

But the poem also delves into the kind of wisdom that only love can inspire. Leyli is married, becomes a widow, and eventually dies. Upon her tomb dies Majnun, the prelude to his entry into the blissful state of celestial union.

Eight years later, Nezami completes a very different kind of narrative. It is no longer love and death at work in the plot, but love of women hindering the prince’s obligation to justice.

This is the story of the Seven Princesses (The Seven Portraits, Haft Peykar). The king, Bahram-e Gur, gathers seven princesses from seven countries of the world.

He settles them in seven pavilions painted according to the seven planets that rule the days of the week. Every night he visits one of them; each narrates a story corresponding to her particular color.

These tales with their underlying didactic messages are meant to provide an education for a prince in love. Having heard the seven tales, Bahram discovers that in his absence his vizier had squandered the treasury and committed many atrocities.

The grievances are redressed and justice is restored before Bahram himself vanishes into a cavern while hunting onagers. The recent translation and commentary, by Michael Barry offers new insights and complements the entry on the poem in Elr.

Later in life, Nezami concentrated his efforts even more on the moral upbringing and pedagogic formation of the prince. His Romance of Alexander, a poem of 10,000 distiches, was completed at around 1203.

As he tells us, at the time he was 63 years old (his death date inscribed on his tomb is given as 1209). Divided into two books (Sharaf-nama and Eqbal-nama), the poem narrates the three stages in Alexander’s life: first as the conqueror of the world; then as a seeker after knowledge, gaining enough wisdom to acknowledge his own ignorance; and finally as a prophet, traveling once again across the world, from west to east, and south to north to proclaim his monotheistic creed to the world at large.

Nezami’s legacy: The work by the poet of Ganja had such a profound impact on the history of Persian classical literature that it can be regarded as a watershed in its literary history.

His strength lies in his narrative techniques, the range and fecundity of his sources, and the masterly way he draws upon them and transforms them into a harmonious work of art.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

# Fajr Festival of Visual Arts announces winners

From Page 1 ► The award for best calligrapher went to Hamed Faqihi and honorable mentions were awarded to Mohammad Bazyar, Rahman Gholami and Amir Danesh Maraghi.

Mohammad Tork was named best graphic designer and Ali Pishdar and Mohammad Taqimanesh received honorable mentions.

The Golden Tooba for best photographer went to Amin Berenjar, while Amir Enayati and Saeid Qasemi won honorable mentions.

In the Peaks section, the best calligrapher award was given to Mostafa Abedi, while Ruhollah Javani was selected as best photographer.

Mohammad-Ali Rajabi was named best cartoonist and miniaturist Reza Badrossama won an honorable mention. Mohammad-Saber Sheikhrezai was selected as best graphic designer.

This section is dedicated to artworks on themes of science, culture, devotion, luminaries and Iranian attractions.

## “And Justice for All” to come under critical scrutiny at Iranian Artists Forum

A scene from the legal comedy-drama “And Justice for All”.

TEHRAN – “And Justice for All”, a 1979 American legal comedy-drama directed by Norman Jewison, will be reviewed at the Iranian Artists Forum on Monday.

Film critic and lawyer Javad Tusi will attend a screening and the review of the film to talk

about restorative justice.

Restorative justice refers to “an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime.”

Starring Al Pacino, Jack Warden and John Forsythe, the film written by Valerie Curtin and Barry Levinson was nominated for an Oscar in the screenplay category. It also received an Academy Award nomination for Pacino in the best leading actor category.

In this film, a lawyer is forced to defend a guilty judge, while defending other innocent clients, and trying to find punishment for the guilty and provide justice for the innocent.

Produced on a modest budget of \$4 million, “And Justice for All” grossed over \$33.3 million in North America, making it the 24th highest-grossing film of 1979.

## Persian edition of “The Private Lives of Trees” republished

TEHRAN – Iranian publisher Cheshmeh has recently published the fifth edition of the Persian translation of Chilean writer Alejandro Zambra’s book “The Private Lives of Trees”.

Originally published in 2007, the book was translated into Persian by Vandan Jalili.

“The Private Lives of Trees” tells the story of a single night: a young professor of literature named Julián is reading to his step-daughter Daniela and nervously waiting for his wife Verónica to return from her art class.

Each night, Julián has been improvising a story about trees to tell Daniela before she goes to sleep, and each Sunday he works on a novel about a man tending to his bonsai, but something about this night is different.

As Julián becomes increasingly concerned that Verónica won’t return, he reflects on their life together in minute detail, and imagines what Daniela—at twenty, at twenty-five, at thirty years old, without a mother—will think of his novel.

Perhaps even more daring and

Front cover of the Persian edition of Alejandro Zambra’s book “The Private Lives of Trees”.

design, sculpture and miniature were on view during the festival at the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran.

In addition, 274 works in different media were showcased in the Peaks section.

The film received mostly positive reviews from critics, earning an 82 percent rating on the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes based on 33 reviews.

The website’s consensus reads, “A volcanic Al Pacino holds court in this histrionic legal drama, the star grounding a tonally imbalanced script with the conviction of his impassioned performance.”

In the book “The Late Show”, Brian W. Fairbanks called the film’s screenplay “overly contrived”, despite Pacino’s “trademark” phrase in the courtroom.

Zagat gave the film 23 of 30 possible points overall; the quality of acting a score of 26 out of 30, and story and production 22 each, where 20 to 25 represents “very good to excellent”; 26 to 30 “extraordinary to perfection”.

The Empire magazine called it a “solid but slightly clichéd courtroom drama” and rated it three stars out of five.

dizzying than Zambra’s magical Bonsai, “The Private Lives of Trees” demands to be read in a single sitting, and it casts a spell that will bring you back to it again and again.

Zambra is also the author of “Bonsai”, “Ways of Going Home”, “My Documents” and “Multiple Choice”.

His stories have appeared in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Granta, Harper’s, Zoetrope and McSweeney’s, among other places.

## Writer Kalateh Arabi elaborates on distortion factors in history of Sacred Defense

**An interview with Javad Kalateh Arabi**  
*One of the most important challenges in society today is the confrontation with the distorted narratives of the history of the Islamic Revolution. Recently, this problem has reached the Sacred Defense events, and every year we are faced with these media and their supporters in our country who distort history.*

**To begin with, please provide a definition of distortion and what is the difference between distortion and narrative?**

When we deviate from reality in telling and writing events, we distort it. Also, sometimes because of the differences of perspectives, those who are distorted may not be distorted and they themselves do not believe in distorting events. Also, sometimes, due to the difference of views, those who distorted narratives, have not done so on purpose. They don’t even believe that they’ve done so.

My field of work is writing memories and we are less distorted in this field, or we are less worried about distortion. In my opinion, the place where distortion occurs is not the field of memory writing, but the field of war historiography.

The point here is that one of the main sources of distortion is the lack of correct narration. When we are worried about the distorted narrative of others, we should have presented the important issues of the war after more than thirty years since the end of the war, because if we do not narrate these issues and events ourselves, we have prepared the ground for the distortion of others.

**In your opinion, to what extent and how should the official organizations in charge of historiography deal with these issues?**

For me, as a researcher living in this society and an ordinary citizen, when this issue becomes serious for me, all questions are raised. I don’t have an answer for this question, but I can say that there is an ability to answer doubts.

**Why do we still have problems in narration after thirty years since the end of the war?**

You should look at how many of these important events have been written! We have mentioned very few important events related to the macro level of the war, related to units and divisions. By not narrating these

events ourselves, we provide the field for our opponents and their activities.

**For the young generation who have not seen the war, what issues should be emphasized more for their better understanding?**

As a researcher, I must say that there should be a wise organization that will count the vital issues of the war and put them on the agenda and narrate them to this young generation. Although you said, the war today, is a war of narratives, and in war we may get hit, and the rules of war are still valid today, but we should not allow ourselves to be defeated.