

Horrificed and Howling

What are the reasons for Israel's new threats against Iran?

► Page 2

Report

“Institutional Islamophobia” in Canada

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN - New research has revealed how Canada is racially targeting its Muslim community with “institutional Islamophobia”.

The first of its kind study has been published to highlight growing concern about the indiscriminate treatment of Canadian Muslims.

According to its authors, the “war on terror” has been used as a pretext for the Canadian Security Intelligence Services (CSIS) to racially profile Muslim communities. It is also being used by Canada to legitimize its racist treatment of Muslims.

It's perhaps important to note that the so-called war on terror saw a significant rise in terrorism in West Asia and beyond.

And the facts on the ground show Muslims have suffered by far the most from Takfiri terrorism.

The Takfiri form of terrorism which has been witnessed over the past two ► Page 5

Iranian Foreign Ministry urges peaceful end to Ukraine conflict

TEHRAN - One year after the outbreak of conflict, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Sunday expressed concern over the material and human losses in Ukraine, highlighting the need for the international community to step up efforts for an “immediate peaceful” resolution of the issue through diplomacy.

The following is the text of the statement made public by the Foreign Ministry:

In the name of God, the Companionate, the Merciful

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its past positions on the Ukraine Crisis, in particular those expressed in its document of 19 October 2022 in New York. As a country, that has been the victim of war, threat and unilateral sanctions by the United States and the West, the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including non-use of force or ► Page 2

Interview

Foolad need a plan for future, ex-coach Veisi says

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Abdollah Veisi, Iranian football expert, believes that Foolad club officials must have a plan for choosing their future head coach.

Javad Nekounam stepped down from his role as Foolad coach last week before the team's crucial match against Al Hilal in the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League.

Then, Spanish coach Manel Benavente was named Foolad coach until the end of the season. ► Page 3



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Respect for ‘human rights’ is our core value

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Monday that “for us, respect for ‘human rights and dignity’ is a core value that is deeply rooted in our national tradition and profoundly embedded in our religious beliefs,” IRNA reported.

The foreign minister made the remarks in an

address to the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The full text of the foreign minister's speech is as follows:

I am pleased to address the Human Rights Council and share, on behalf of the Islamic republic of Iran, our thoughts and views concerning ‘human rights’ and the institutional mechanisms established for its sake.

Protection and promotion of human rights is a shared sentiment for all nations. No State or a group of States should entitle themselves to claim exclusive ownership or custody of human rights. Nor should any State coerce others into submitting to any self-styled interpretation of human rights. ► Page 3

China ready to partake in Iran's maritime projects

TEHRAN - Head of the Supreme Council of Marine Industries' Secretariat Saeed Jafari said China has expressed readiness to participate in Iran's maritime projects, IRNA reported.

Considering the positive negotiations between the two sides during the recent visit of

President Ebrahim Raisi to China, the Chinese have expressed readiness to participate in all Iranian marine projects, Jafari said on Monday.

According to the official, during president Raisi's visit to China, the Iranian party held talks with the representatives of some major Chinese maritime companies and good

agreements have been reached.

“Considering that China is one of the world's largest maritime producers and has large and capable companies in this field, during the recent trip we had negotiations with one of these companies and good agreements were achieved,” Jafari said. ► Page 4

First phase of vaccinating foreign nationals completed

TEHRAN - The first phase of a plan for the vaccination of foreign nationals against three contagious diseases has been completed.

“The health teams performed well and we even exceeded the predicted goal of 700,000 people and reached the number of 943,000 people,” ISNA quoted Mohsen Zahraei, the head of the preventable diseases department of the Ministry of Health, as saying.

On December 31, 2022, the vaccination program for refugees and foreign nationals started with the aim of providing protection against polio and measles.

The program was implemented by 27 medical science universities focused on non-Iranian nationals under the age of 15, he added.

The second phase of the plan is related to the screening and diagnosis of tuberculosis, which will continue for three months, Zahraei noted. ► Page 7

Research explores Persian Gulf, Makran coastline

TEHRAN - The Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism has conducted a study to explore the archaeological capacities of the Persian Gulf and Makran coastline in southern Iran, the head of the institute, has said.

The project aims to provide a detailed account of archaeological possessions in the Persian Gulf and its islands, as well as on the Makran coastline, Mosayyeb Amir explained

on Monday.

The research is planned to be published within a year, he added.

The Persian Gulf is a shallow, epi-continental sea approximately 1,000 km long and 200-350 km wide, narrowing to about 60 km across the Straits of Hormuz. According to Encyclopedia Iranica, to date, no Neolithic remains have been found anywhere along

the Persian Gulf coast of Iran. The earliest archaeological remains yet identified on the coast of Iran consist of sherds of Mesopotamian Ubaid type picked up by M. E. Prickett and A. Williamson on the surface of Halilah, a prehistoric site on the Bushehr peninsula.

The Persian Gulf has always been a source of pride and honor for Iranians. For thousands of years, ► Page 6

From Inside

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Tehran Papers

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

Syria rose from the ashes

Siasat-e-Rooz writes: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad hosted a delegation of the speakers of the parliaments of Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Egypt, and heads of the delegations from Oman and Lebanon. ► Page 2

Op-ed

Legitimate presence

By Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei

International legal scholarship has strongly emphasized the legality of intervention. According to a famous dictum by the International Court of Justice in 1986, it is believed that if valid consent is given by a representative and a still effective government, intervention by invitation is always legal and there is no prohibition of invited intervention. ► Page 3

Iran rules out report on handover of Afghan embassy in Tehran

TEHRAN- The claims concerning several recent occurrences at the Afghan embassy in Tehran were disputed by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The public relations department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry has denied accusations concerning events within the Afghan embassy, noting that such events are internal Afghan matters.

Artist Ruholamin pays tribute to firefighter killed in Bahar Street blaze

TEHRAN - Artist Hassan Ruholamin has paid tribute to an elite firefighter that was killed while battling a fire in Tehran's Bahar Street by portraying him on canvas in his latest painting named “Qoqnus”.

“Qoqnus”, which literally means phoenix, shows the late firefighter Qaribreza Darabi squatting among the flames with wildflowers grown by his feet.

In a post published on his Instagram, Ruholamin dedicated the painting to Darabi, who died on Saturday after falling down into a lift well while battling the blaze in downtown Tehran. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Syria rose from the ashes

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

from page 1 ► Not long ago, Bashar Assad had also visited Oman.

After the Syrian earthquake, some officials of Arab countries traveled to Damascus.

After years of confrontation with Syria and supporting terrorists, Saudi Arabia also sent humanitarian aid to Syria.

By now, the Arab countries stood by the U.S. and against Syria, so their current approach shows the changes in the structure of the region and the world.

These years, Syria has been able to survive against the extensive sanctions of the West while fighting terrorism, and at the same time, by supporting Palestine, it has also maintained its regional position.

At the same time, developments in the region show that Arab countries no longer trust America.

So, it can be said that the new approaches of the countries towards Syria are due to the achievements of Damascus on the resistance front.

Sharq: National economy, natural gas reserves and gas diplomacy

Today, one of the biggest concerns of the countries that have gas reserves is to convert this non-productive underground asset into a productive asset, Sharq says in commentary headlined "National economy, natural gas reserves and gas diplomacy".

Being active in global markets requires preparations, but customers will cooperate with a supplier if they become confident of long-term cooperation.

In the last few years, Qatar, the holder of the third largest gas reserves, has introduced itself as a reliable exporter.

The plan to build a peace pipeline to transfer Iranian gas to the Indian subcontinent was stopped. In contrast, the TAPI pipeline, which is supposed to deliver Turkmenistan's gas to India and Pakistan, is being implemented.

With the absence of Russia, Turkmenistan, with reserves of about one-third of Iran's reserves, pursues a larger share of the global gas trade by implementing the gas transmission pipeline from the Caspian Sea bed.

The result of all these events is the loss of Iran's opportunity to participate in the global gas market. If the current situation continues, Iran will have to wait for Turkmenistan's gas to be depleted to make its stagnant gas reserves, productive.

Etela'at: The world is poorer because of Ukraine war

In an article, Etela'at wrote: The history of the world is known by many turning points; the contemporary history is known by the First and Second World Wars, the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the September

11 terrorist attacks. But undoubtedly the war in Ukraine is a new milestone.

The war in Ukraine took place in the atmosphere of the world's coronavirus pandemic. With the spread of the coronavirus, 70 million people were pushed into poverty.

At the same time, climate change created disasters, and in such a situation in an interconnected world, the war in Ukraine intensified two crises: food crisis and also energy crisis that had a profound impact on the world's livelihood.

Arman Melli: Excuses to activate trigger mechanism have increased

Arman Melli writes: There have been many excuses to activate the trigger mechanism if the nuclear deal – JCPOA – is not revived.

European countries can claim that Iran has violated its commitments in the JCPOA.

If such a decision is taken, Russia and China cannot veto it because the situation is different. As a result, an opponent can invoke the trigger mechanism.

Under the current condition, the reports published by the IAEA about Iran are negative and the body can claim Iran is not cooperating, which can serve as a reason for one of the European countries to activate the trigger mechanism.

If the trigger mechanism is activated, all the concessions given to Iran under the JCPOA will be lost.

In the current situation, the JCPOA is not dead, but it is in a coma, and if it is lucky, can come out of the coma.

However, the U.S. has never said that the JCPOA is dead. In any case, because of its interests, Washington is looking for ways to be in contact with Iran.

Sobh-e-No: We need diplomats who have initiative and courage in decision making

Today, the future of the negotiations is uncertain, and no one knows whether or not the deal will benefit everyone, considering the change in the balance on the 5+1, Sobh-e-Nou writes.

Iran's negotiating team lost the opportunity to reach an agreement by delaying and not negotiating in ideal conditions, and now they are looking for an agreement.

Today, the country is paying for the policies of the negotiating team, which adopted the strategy of negotiations without results. This shows their lack of self-confidence.

Now it is said that the responsibility for nuclear talks will probably be assigned to the Strategic Council for Foreign Policy. Whether the responsibility of the negotiations is assigned to the council or not, we need diplomats who, firstly, have the initiative in negotiations and secondly, the courage to make decisions at an appropriate time.

Deal in reach if U.S. acts based on its messages: Abdollahian



"Iran prefers diplomacy, dialogue"

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said during his last week's trip to Baghdad that his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein had presented him a message that he imagined the American side can be ready for an agreement with Iran to revive the nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

Speaking with the Iranian television network AL-Alam, Abdollahian pointed out that "if the American side acts realistically within the framework of the message it has sent and avoids repeating its previous hypocritical media remarks, we will not be far from an agree-

ment."

The foreign minister added, "The problem, however, is that Americans always issue contradictory diplomatic and media messages. I mean, they send positive diplomatic messages while making different media remarks. We hope that this time around Americans would act realistically and avoid being hypocritical."

He also insisted that Iran has never left the negotiation table, reiterating Tehran's call for diplomacy to settle the issues.

"We have never removed ourselves from negotiation and have always supported the route of diplomacy and negotiation."

Iran is prepared to work toward a JCPOA agreement and return of all signatories to their obligations within the framework of negotiations conducted in Vienna and based on messages exchanged between Tehran and Washington through "non-paper" contacts, the minister stated.

He emphasized that any such deal must safeguard the interests of all parties while also respecting the red lines set by the Islamic Republic.

Horrificed and Howling

TEHRAN- The Israeli regime officials are addicted to day-dreaming their superficial threats against the regional countries, especially Iran in a bid to vindicate their devilish crimes against the Palestinians.

With the fake news emerging that Iran has allegedly managed to enrich uranium to 84 percent, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has scramble to hold meetings with other so-called officials to showcase their flimsy force against a nation that enjoys the wholehearted approval of its people and its military power is both deterrent and devastating.

Netanyahu also reiterated his bogus claims by calling on the international community to act to stop Iran's alleged escalation.

Furthermore, it is not the first time that the fake regime makes threats against Iran but no worries because barking dogs seldom bite.

Over the past few years at least, the Israeli regime has suffered from a myriad of factors. To name some, it is indispensable to view the mismanagement and mishandling of economic, social, and political situations by its pompous officials.

Tens of thousands of Israelis are protesting against the regime's plans to maintain the economy



and security back on track.

For the several consecutive weeks, protesters from all over the occupied territories gathered on Jerusalem Al-Quds in the vicinity of the Knesset to vent their fury, calling for a better life, as well as the reading of the legislation to change the way judges are picked.

The regime's system of checks and balances, according to many detractors, will be destroyed, and the prime minister would have a disproportionate amount of authority.

Moreover, they believe that Ne-

tanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, has a conflict of interest.

Tens of thousands of people have been holding weekly rallies in Tel Aviv since early January, accusing Netanyahu of trying to monopolize power.

The most right-wing in Israel's checkered history, he is facing numerous issues and challenges including the unprecedented demonstrations, warnings from military and business leaders, and calls for restraint by the United States.

It is noticeable that the Tel Aviv regime has stuck to its detrimen-

tal plans to pin the blame of its relentless defeats and failures on Iran regardless of their ramifications for the regime.

The just and sensible analysts believe that if the regime imagines any kind of military confrontations with Iran, it will do hara-kiri.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, recently warned the regime's officials that any wrong move will lead to total destruction of the regime.

Ayatollah Khamenei also cast light on the reasons behind the Western-backed animosity with the Islamic Revolution, saying that "all such animosity derives from Iran's full support of the Palestinian cause."

Iranian officials and top military brass have invariably cautioned Israel that any strike on Iran will cost the regime dearly.

They also warned countries that have normalized ties with the regime to avoid any military cooperation with Tel Aviv, saying it will boomerang.

Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid, Commander of the Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters, also warned regional countries against any cooperation with Israel in posing threats on the Islamic Republic's national security by providing bases or facilities.

Iranian Foreign Ministry urges peaceful end to Ukraine conflict



from page 1 ► threat to force, territorial integrity and sovereign equality. Iran denounces war and unilateral sanctions and its absolute preference is for dialogue and diplomacy in dispute settlement between states.

In particular, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the Cold War era hegemonic mentality and unilateralism by the United States

and certain other western countries, through national policies and regional arrangements (e.g. NATO), which has been one of the main root cause of many crisis in the world, including the ongoing one in Ukraine.

After one year of military conflict in Ukraine, which has caused human and material losses to the parties to the conflict and has had harmful consequences for the world, the international community needs to reinforce its efforts on an immediate peaceful settlement of this crisis through diplomacy.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is expressing its respect for both nations of Ukraine and Russia and mentioning Iran's long-standing relations with both countries and once again, is conveying its deep regret for the continuation of the conflict and war and is reaffirming its neutral position.

The time is for genuine diplomacy to be ac-

tivated now in order to end the conflict and all unilateral actions rather than advertising and fueling the war, as well as accusing of others baselessly and insisting on unilateral measures.

In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis dated 24 February 2023. Iran believes that the elements reflected in this document are enough for commencing negotiations for a mutually agreed framework for terminating the military activities in Ukraine, stopping unilateral measures and restoring the situation in accordance with the principles of Charter of the United Nations.

Iran is also ready to contribute to peaceful settlement of the crisis, as appropriate, aiming at an early termination of the military activities as well as any arrangement that could alleviate the humanitarian grievance.

Foes resort to hybrid warfare after relentless defeats: Quds Force chief

from page 1 ► Referring to the resistance front and pro-resistance media outlets, he stated that "thank God, they have managed to strengthen their capacities day by day through dedicated efforts and great resolve, despite all stringent limits."

"The grandeur of the resistance front has been admirably highlighted by pro-resistance media, and it has been demonstrated that maintaining and advancing Islamic principles is required by the directives of God and the



Prophet Mohammad," the top general added.

The Quds Force commander refuted the common and mistaken belief that superior weaponry

and bigger financial resources are required for one side to win a war.

"The global arrogance, led by the United States and the Zionist regime, has misinformed the world public opinion by alleging that whoever has more weapons, equipment and assets in a war would emerge as the winner. They are propagating the idea due to the fact that they make money out of arms deals," Qaani highlighted.

He went on to say, "In order to sell weapons, they used to start conflicts all over the world. All

those who formerly believed that military equipment and armaments would decide the outcome of conflicts now acknowledge that those who put up more of a resistance during a conflict ultimately prevail."

Iran's Army Chief, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi asserted on February 6 that after suffering severe setbacks at the hands of the Iranian people and Leader of the Islamic Revolution, foes have turned to a hybrid war against the Islamic establishment.

Iraqi soil must not be exploited against neighbors: Raisi

TEHRAN- Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, insisted on Sunday that Iraqi soil must not be used to conspire against or threaten its neighbors.

Raisi made the remarks at a meeting with Iraqi Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed al-Abbasi in Tehran.

The president also said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran respects the Iraqi government's efforts for economic and military reconstruction of the country."

Iran, he continued, "considers the security of Iraq as its own security and favors the establishment of stability and security in this nation."

The Iraqi defense minister, for his part, praised Iran for standing by the Iraqi people during the country's fight against Daesh terrorists and the foreign invasion of the country.

Abbasi added Baghdad will not let opportunistic individuals to threaten Iran's and Iraq's borders or territory or to sow unrest.

The defense chief also urged Iran to continue its assistance to restore calm and peace in the war-torn Iraq.

"Teheran, Baghdad stepping up security coop to face common threats"

In a separate meeting with the Iraqi defense minister on Sunday, Iranian Armed Forces chief Major General Mohammad Baqeri also said Iran and Iraq are increasing security cooperation to ensure regional security and tackle "common challenges."

General Baqeri asserted that the two nations are working together to combat terrorism. He added the Daesh terrorist group was founded by international powers to seize control of regional governments but the plan was thwarted by collaboration between the Iranian and Iraqi militaries.

The military chief also noted that Iraq may benefit from Iran's expertise as a pioneer in rebuilding and modernizing military and armament infrastructure.

"IRGC prepared to train Iraqi military troops"

The IRGC commander also said his troops are well-prepared to train Iraqi military units.

At a meeting with Abbasi, Major General Hossein Salami called for expansion of military, defense, and security cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad.

General Salami emphasized the value of "stable, safe, and strong neighbors" for Iran, saying that



while the Islamic Republic supports a powerful Iraq, the Americans and Zionists want to dominate the region and sow unrest in both Iraq and Iran.

He said the rationale for Iran's desire for the exit of U.S. forces from the region is that the oppressed regional people must bear the costs of the Americans' opportunistic ploys, warning that U.S. presence at every corner of the world has engendered instability and security.

For his part, the Iraqi defense minister called for greater collaboration with Iran while the government in Baghdad works to bolster the Arab nation's military capabilities.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Respect for ‘human rights’ is our core value, Abdollahian tells Human Rights Council

From Page 1 ► For us, respect for ‘human rights and dignity’ is a core value that is deeply rooted in our national tradition and profoundly embedded in our religious beliefs. And we have worked tirelessly and constantly toward better protection and promotion of human rights and dignity. We have learned throughout our long history that we should neither be disheartened nor distracted by the odds.

I would like here to outline a few points concerning the human rights and the way this lofty concept is projected, and unfortunately manipulated, for political purposes of a limited number of States.

The resolution that established the HRC reaffirms, quite purposefully the purposes and principles such as developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. In practice, though, the Council has been forced to take up certain agendas that neither serve such purposes and principles nor do they contribute to friendly relations among nations. The Council needs to reclaim its credibility and effectiveness by upholding ‘the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue’ among member States.

Human rights are all important and ‘must be treated in a fair and equal manner’. Economic and social rights should not be treated as second class rights after civil and political rights. After all, the protection of ‘human dignity’ obviously requires certain basic socio-economic conditions that need to be recognized and fulfilled. The right to development with all its components should be seen in this perspective.

Unilateral coercive measures, as unlawful and inhuman as they are, systematically and flagrantly violate fundamental human rights of the targeted populations. The United States’ consecutive administrations



must be held to account for perpetrating the atrocity crime. Those European and other States that comply and over-comply with the US’ unilateral coercive measures should be accountable as accomplices in the crime. Neither of them has any moral high ground to talk about Iran’s human rights.

“Our women have registered eye-catching progress and achievements in various areas of science and education, health and medical treatment and social and political activities.”

That’s a sheer hypocrisy to advocate for the human rights of the Iranians while depriving the same people of their basic rights to health, to education, and to life.

No country can claim to be perfect in its human rights performance. The United States alone is responsible for the bulk of systematic and grave human rights violations as it ranks number one in terms of military aggressions and interventions, coup detats, and economic embargoes against other countries.

The UN human rights mechanisms could and should contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights through genuine dialogue, constructive interaction and respectful capacity-building cooperation. The UPR mechanism

is one such venue for inclusive and interactive exchanges among member States.

The human rights institutions, including the Council, has been regrettably transmuted into an instrument of foreign policy by a handful of States led by the United States.

The peaceful assemblies that took place in my country following the sad death of Mahsa Amini manifested the Iranian spirit of solidarity and sympathy for a fellow young Iranian woman. However, those peaceful assemblies turned violent following the malign interference by some terrorist elements. In this respect, a number of Persian language TV channels based in the U.S. and the UK, acted as provocateurs of hatred and propagators of violence.

The violence that was malignly inflicted on our citizens’ peaceful assemblies by provocative and ill-intended interferences, claimed the lives of innocent lives including 95 law-enforcement personnel, and left many public and private properties destroyed or damaged.

This is while the police of Iran did not have the permission to use fire arms. The rioters however murdered many people by fire arms and cold weapons.

No responsible State could let the public security and order be compromised by violent and lawless behaviour.

The national committee that was established for addressing different aspects of the unrest is also mandated to receive and investigate any complaint regarding alleged use of unnecessary force by police. It is noteworthy that the majority of those who were arrested, excluding those who committed violent crimes are already granted amnesty and released.

The national committee that has been formed to investigate the various aspects of unrest in I.R. Iran is tasked to identify the causes of recent unrest, verify the claims and allegations leveled against the law enforcement forces, to verify and report the possible negligence and failures, to compensate for the damages rendered to citizens and private and public properties and places, look into the situation of the detainees, those who have lost their lives and examine the foreign elements such as media and internet fueling riots. It needs to be mentioned that most of the people who were arrested during the riots have been released based on the amnesty granted to them, except for those who have committed serious crimes.

One of the main challenges of the present era is the emergence of terrorist and extremist groups across the world. The recent desecration of the holy Quran in some western countries and the terrorist attack on the Holy Shrine of Shah-Cheragh in Iran which claimed the lives of 13 innocent Iranians including women and children are a few examples of such terrorism and extremism.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Without Iran will the world will never be safe, top general says

IRGC chief says Europe is alive on oil and security, advises them to avoid putting themselves in danger

TEHRAN – Major General Hossein Salami, the IRGC chief, said on Monday that the world will not be safe without Iran’s will to ensure security.

Speaking to a group of IRGC commanders of Khuzestan province as well as provincial governors in Abadan, the IRGC head noted that “we realize that the world won’t be safe without Iran’s will to safeguard security.”

“We have noticed that the opponents are attempting to distance our youth from prior accomplishments as we are continuously keeping an eye on their efforts. No country can

be completely divorced from its history,” the major general continued.

General Salami went on to says, “Our youth do not know Europe and they do not know America well. Today, in the war in Ukraine, the Europe has started an uproar against Iran by accusing us.”

Who stocked Iraq with chemical weapons? he enquired, saying, “You were the one who gave Saddam chemical weapons to use against Iranian youths, many of whom received treatment in European hospitals.”

“Westerners killed millions of Iranians by famine and exiled the Shah of Iran and replaced him with another Shah,” General Salami said.

The top commander noted, “We can also increase the range of our weapons,” adding, “These days Europe has a leading role in sanctioning Iran while we can launch a big economic war against them.”

He cautioned that two things—oil and security—keep Europe alive, advising them to exercise caution and avoid putting themselves in danger.

Nonetheless, simple facts clearly establish that the military intervention of the United States in Syria was illegal and illegitimate. Firstly, it is clear that the government of Syria never requested the U.S. to intervene. In a letter sent to the UN Security Council on September 17, 2015, Syria emphasized that it “has not made any request to that effect”. And secondly, consent has apparently never been asked from the government of Syria by the United States.

It can be concluded that there were four reasons that cumulatively justified Iran’s intervention in Iraq and Syria: first, the governments of Iraq and Syria were legitimate; second, ISIL, AL-Nusrah Front, and all other individual terrorist groups in these countries were included in the UN list of terrorist organizations; third, Iraq and Syria were a victim of terrorist attacks by terrorist groups and faced a serious threat from international terrorist organizations; and fourth, the governments of Iraq and Syria requested the Iranian government to fight these terrorist entities.

Therefore, it is impossible to use the doctrine of ‘intervention by invitation’ as a legal basis for the strikes of the United States in Syria. The Islamic Republic of Iran’s presence in the front lines of the fight against terrorism is in line with the principles of international law and international human rights demonstrating the legitimacy of its overseas operations and the country’s determination to respect human rights.

Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei, a law expert, is a member of the oversight Guardian Council

SPORTS

Foolad need a plan for future, ex-coach Veisi says

From Page 1 ► “Foolad have been disappointing in domestic competitions, however in the AFC Champions League they did well,” said Veisi, who played for Foolad from 2002 to 2004 and managed the team for a short period in 2021.

“They qualified for the group stage and in the last 16 match they faced a weak opponents Al-Faisaly, and it was predictable that they beat the Saudi team,” he told Tehran Times.

“Against Al Hilal in the quarterfinals, Foolad players tried hard but they lacked enough concentration during the match and lost the game by a mistake against the best Asian team,” he added.

Veisi also talked about the appointing of Benevente as the interim coach of Foolad.

“It was a logical decision by the club’s management. However, they must have a long-term plan and clarify what they want to do. If they want to have a foreign coach they should bring it now and let him adapt with Foolad and the Iranian football.

“On the other hand, if the Foolad officials want to have an Iranian top coach for the next season, they should start negotiations with the candidates and explain them their goals and expectation,” he added.

“At the end, I want to say that Foolad are a big club and Khuzestan Province has a rich history of the big clubs with many cups and honors. Some people have no right to brag about their wins in the Asian competitions and one or two domestic cups that they have achieved with spending a lot of money. Foolad have previously participated in many editions of the AFC Champions League and have done better than this,” Veisi concluded.

IPL: Persepolis beat Naft Masjed Soleyman

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defeated rock-bottom Naft Masjed Soleyman 3-0 in Iran’s Professional League (IPL) Matchweek 21 on Monday.

Persepolis midfielder Sina Asadbeigi brought down Naft Masjed Soleyman into area in the 12th minute and the referee showed the penalty spot but goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand saved Peyman Miri’s penalty.

Asadbeigi opened the scoring for Persepolis 10 minutes later.

Mehdi Torabi made the scoreboard 2-0 just before the break.

With one minute remaining, Mehdi Abdi scored Persepolis’s third goal, two minutes after coming off the bench.

Earlier in the day, Zob Ahan edged past Mes Kerman 1-0 in Isfahan and Gol Gohar defeated Paykan 2-1 in Sirjan.

On Tuesday, Havadar will host Mes Rafsanjan, Nassaji meet Esteghlal, Sepahan face Aluminum in Arak and struggling Sanat Naft play Tractor.

Sepahan sit top of the table due to superior goal difference with a game in hands.

Manel Benavente named Foolad coach

TEHRAN – Spanish coach Manel Benavente was named Foolad coach until the end of the season, the Iran Professional League said on Monday.

The 49-year-old Spaniard replaced Javad Nekounam in Foolad after the Iranian coach stepped down from his role last week.

Benavente started his coaching career in Spanish club UDA Gramenet in 1998 and has also worked as assistant coach in Badalona, UE Lleida and CF Gavà.

He has also been technical director of CE Sabadell and Málaga CF.

The former goalkeeper will take charge Foolad in the remaining matches in Iran Professional League.

Foolad sit ninth in the table, 18 points behind leaders Sepahan.

Olfati takes silver at Artistic Gymnastics World Cup

TEHRAN – Mehdi Olfati of Iran won a silver medal at the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus, Germany on Sunday.

He finished in second place in vault event with a score of 14.983 points.

Armenian gymnast Artur Davtyan seized the gold with 15.133 points and the bronze medal went to Hong Kong’s Shek Wai Hung (14.733).

Another Iranian gymnast Mehdi Ahmadi Kohan had claimed a silver medal had won a silver in rings event on Saturday.

The event is the first stop of the 2023 World Cup season for artistic gymnastics.

Azmoun snatches point for Leverkusen at Freiburg

TEHRAN – A second-half goal from Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun helped Bayer Leverkusen grab a 1-1 draw at Freiburg on Sunday.

A goal from free-kick specialist Vincenzo Grifo had put Freiburg into a first-half lead and on course for a valuable three points in their top-four bid, but Azmoun’s first goal in Leverkusen colors meant the honors were shared.

Grifo opened the scoring with his 12th league goal of the season, curling an inch-perfect free kick over the wall and onto the inside of the crossbar.

The ball bounced down but hit the back of Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky and went in.

The visitors had two chances to equalize just before the break through Jeremie Frimpong and Moussa Diaby, but Freiburg held firm.

Bayer manager Xabi Alonso brought on midfielder Florian Wirtz at half-time and the change had the desired impact, with the visitors benefiting from the teenager’s creativity and vision.

With 67 minutes gone, Wirtz moved the ball to Mitchell Bakker, who chipped a superb looping cross to Azmoun. The Iranian cut the ball across the face of goal and into the net.

Iran futsal team arrive in Bangkok for futsal tournament

TEHRAN – Iran futsal team arrived in Bangkok, Thailand for taking part at the NSDF Futsal Championship 2023.

Iran will play Saudi Arabia and Egypt in Group B, while Group A consists of host Thailand, Mozambique and Japan.

The competition will be held in Pattaya city from March 1 to 7.

Iran will start the six-team tournament on March 1 with a match against Saudi Arabia and meet Egypt two days later in group stage.

Klinsmann named South Korea’s new head coach


TEHRAN – Former German striker Jurgen Klinsmann was named as new head coach of Asian football team South Korea.

He takes on his fifth coaching role and his first since a chaotic spell at Hertha Berlin.

Klinsmann, 58, will arrive in Seoul next week and be in charge when South Korea faces Colombia on March 24.

It will be the third national team appointment for the former German striker, who won the World Cup as a player in 1990. After retiring as a player in 1998, he coached Germany from 2004 to 2006 and the U.S. from 2011 to 2016.

He also coached one season at Bayern Munich during the 2008-09 season, a stint that lasted only 10 months. His last coaching job was on an interim basis at Hertha Berlin, a disastrous 76-day tenure from November 2019 to January 2020 that ended in chaos.



Legitimate presence

From Page 1 ► Therefore, military assistance on request can be legal when the purpose of the intervention is to realize objectives such as fighting terrorism.

State practice demonstrates that the legality of intervention by invitation has never been problematic when the purpose of such intervention was limited to the fight against terrorists who use the territory of the neighboring state as a ‘safe haven’ to launch attacks against the intervening state.

The applicability of these ‘exceptions’ raises delicate issues, and requires subjective judgments; regarding the existence of the ‘legitimate purpose’ invoked by the inviting and the intervening state.

‘Fighting terrorism’, which is raised in relation to the intervention of Islamic Republic of Iran in Syria and Iraq, raises concerns over the definition of terrorism and the question of who can decide that a specific group is a terrorist group.

It should be added that the designation of ‘terrorist groups’ is not challenging when it is the result of collective determination by the UN Security Council or other consensual mechanisms.

In the case of Iraq and Syria for instance, the UN Security Council clearly designates ISIL, AL-Nusrah Front ‘and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with AL-Qaida’, as ‘terrorists’, while its readiness to add

other groups to the list is also declared. There is thus no doubt about the fact that the groups that have been subjected to military intervention and assault in Iraq and Syria by the Islamic Republic of Iran are clearly ‘terrorist’ groups.

On the other hand, the Saudi-led war on Yemen, initiated on March 26, 2015, is completely illegal and illegitimate under international law. The illegal aggression took place without any UN Security Council authorization and was met with critical voices from considerable number of States.

Thus, according to the UN Security Council Resolutions, intervention by Islamic Republic of Iran has been recognized as the valid legal basis for all military operations against terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria, and all resolutions confirm the legitimate foundation of Iran’s intervention.

While Iran’s intervention in Iraq and Syria brought about political reactions from certain countries that perceived Iran as a threat, no state raised any objections about the legality of Iranian intervention, recognized as legitimate by both Iraq and Iran on the basis of valid consent and the fight against terrorism (the two countries even signed a military pact to combat ISIL on 31 December 2014).

Several meetings were held by the UN Security Council concerning the situation in Iraq and Syria, and adopted specific resolutions such as 2233 and 2249, to “urge[d] the international community, in accordance with international law to further strengthen and expand support for the Government of Iraq [and Syria] as it fights ISIL and associated armed groups.”



China ready to partake in Iran's maritime projects

from page 1 ► He noted that the main focus of the discussions between the two sides has been on technology transfer for manufacturing large-scale vessels.

"Currently, we have good companies in this field, but because our companies are still green in the construction of many vessels, it is better to have another experienced company as a consultant with us," the official added.

Supplying major parts and equipment that cannot be produced domestically, has been also among the major issues the two sides agreed upon in the marine field, according to Jafari.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting



February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran, and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation

documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth \$12 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively, the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport City.

According to Majid-Reza Hariri, the head of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, considering the opportunities presented by the two countries' 25-year strategic agreement, the trade between Iran and China can be increased three-fold.

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

Greenhouses established in 220 ha of land in Hamedan province since last March

TEHRAN- Greenhouses were established in 220 hectares of land in Hamedan province in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (began on March 21, 2022), a provincial official announced.

Reza Bahramlou, the head of the province's Agriculture Department, said that in 1401, as many greenhouses as in the previous 20 years were established in Hamadan province.

"We agree to the construction of a greenhouse on any land, and no case regarding greenhouses is left pending, because greenhouses bring stable employment, so that 11 jobs are created per hectare of greenhouses", the official further highlighted.

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.

TEDPIX rises 4,800 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,840 points to 1.809 million on Monday.

As reported, over 20.821 billion securities worth 115.354 trillion rials (about \$288 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).

BMI announces requirements for travelers to receive foreign currency



Bank Melli Iran emphasizes that applicants and clients qualified to receive travel currency must get their currency order before traveling and the time of receiving the currency.

According to BMI public relations, applicants and clients qualified to receive travel currency, who intend to travel abroad, must go to the currency bank branches in person to get their currency order.

Receiving the currency at the bank currency counters stationed in international airports (after passing the passport control gate) depends on getting the currency order before going to the mentioned counters.

Obviously, after issuing travel currency order, clients can receive their amount of currency from currency counters of BMI stationed at the country's international airports at the time of exiting from air borders.

It is noted that at the moment, the payable amount of travel currency is at most 500 US dollars and it's not sold to people under the legal age of 5 and immigrant Iranians.

Clients must go to this bank's currency branches to receive their currency order.

Dam reservoirs increase by 6%

TEHRAN - The total volume of water in Iran's dam reservoirs has reached 23.35 billion cubic meters since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2022) up to February 25, showing a six percent increase compared to the same period last year.

According to Firouz Ghasemzadeh, the spokesman of the Energy Ministry's water industry, the precipitation rate during autumn (September 23-December 21, 2022) was not very favorable but the situation is expected to get better as of early March when glaciers begin to melt.

The total volume of water input to the country's dams

since the beginning of the current water year up to February 25 is reported to be 12.25 billion cubic meters, which shows no significant change compared to the same period last year.

The volume of water output from the dams in the mentioned period is estimated at 8.1 billion cubic meters indicating a decrease of 15 percent. The figure was 9.46 billion cubic meters in the same period last year.

According to Ghasemzadeh, currently, 47 percent of the total capacity of the country's dams is full. Iran's total dam reservoirs stand at 50.5 billion cubic meters.

Out of a total of 183 currently operational dams across Iran, 52 are related to the Caspian Sea catchment area, 12 are based in the Urmia basin, 68 dams are located in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman watersheds, 34 dams are in the Central Plateau, 11 dams are in Sarakhs catchment basin, and another six dams are located across the eastern boundary basin (Hamoun).

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its re-

vival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Also, over-harvesting in 77 percent of Iran has led to more land subsidence and soil salinity. Research and statistics show that the average over-draft from the country's aquifers was about 5.2 billion cubic meters per year

Govt. branches give CBI new authorities to manage forex market

TEHRAN - The heads of the three branches of the Iranian government have approved a resolution based on which the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is given complete authority to take the necessary measures for managing the foreign currency exchange market, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Following the recent fluctuations in the forex market, the CBI sent a proposal package to the government, requesting

new authorities to be able to manage the market. The package was assessed and approved in a meeting attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and the heads of the government's two other branches on Sunday evening.

In this regard, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi told the press on Monday that based on the mentioned resolution, all the country's industries and exporting complexes, even

the government-owned ones, including the oil and gas industry, are obliged to follow the CBI's new policies for managing forex market.

"The central bank needed new authorities to be able to intervene effectively [in the forex market], and [to this end] this package was approved by the government at the meeting of the heads of the three branches," Khandouzi said.

Khuzestan province records lowest inflation rate

TEHRAN - A review of the data released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) shows that Khuzestan province with 42.7 percent recorded the lowest inflation rate in the twelve-month period that ended on February 19, which marks the end of the eleventh Iranian calendar month Bahman.

The highest 12-month inflation rate is related to West Azarbaijan province with 53.1 percent, based on the SCI's statistics.

According to the SCI, the lowest point-to-point

inflation rate was recorded in Bushehr province (48.6 percent), and the highest rate in Sistan-Baluchestan province (67.9 percent) in the eleventh month.

As reported, the lowest inflation rate for urban households was in Bushehr province (41.1 percent) and the highest rate was in Lorestan province (52.1 percent).

The lowest inflation rate for rural households was in Khuzestan province (45.4 percent) and the highest rate was in Sistan-Baluchestan province (58.4 percent)



The SCI has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period that ended on February 19 at 47.7 percent, rising 14 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the tenth month.

The center put the

country's point-to-point inflation rate at 53.4 percent in the eleventh month, which means families have paid an average of 53.4 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 46.9 percent for the urban households, rising 1.4 percent from the previous month, and 51.7 percent for the rural households, increasing 1.7 percent from the previous month.

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“Institutional Islamophobia” in Canada

From page 1 ► decades are extremist elements who terrorized communities (mainly in West Asia), and which governments in West Asia say is a creation of the United States, Israel and some of their allies.

Others accuse the U.S. and Israel of working hand in hand with Takfiri factions to destabilize the region.

But as Takfiri extremists practice their terror against Muslims under the fake banner of Islam, Muslims find themselves being targeted both by the terrorists and as studies show by Western governments.

To put that into perspective, the Western public has failed to distinguish between Takfiri terrorists (who were dealt a heavy blow by armed Islamic resistance movements) and Muslims themselves.

This is a direct result of the disinformation campaign waged by Western mainstream media and Western politicians.

The Takfiri radicals, who the West gave them an open stage and a megaphone on the streets of its cities to spread their extremist ideologies and hate speech, were not on the radar of Western spy agencies, as they claim.

More ironically some were admittedly on the radar yet Western spy agencies did nothing to end their practices.

This is another example of the West using extremists (Takfiris) to portray them as Muslims.

It should also be noted that Western media gave the extremist elements all the airspace they wanted to spread their Takfiri ideology.

At the same time, almost all Muslim political activists rarely, if ever, appeared on Western mainstream media.

CSIS is the Canadian counterpart to the United Kingdom's Security Service (M15) and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Although Canada has not experienced an overt terrorist attack, CSIS has engaged in widespread surveillance of Canadian Muslim communities, the study notes.

The researchers conducted 95 in-depth interviews with Muslim community leaders in five Canadian cities, to explore how the racial logics embedded in the “War on Terror” shape CSIS's tactical and racist operations.

They found that CSIS adopts specific surveillance practices that are enshrined by an



Islamophobic theme.

This works on the premise that Islam and any expression of religious devotion to it represents a potential terror suspect.

It finds that the “CSIS engages in mass surveillance with devastating and prolonged effects on Muslim communities. We found that mosques have been transformed into sites of surveillance rather than a safe place for religious worship and community gatherings.”

The Canadian spy agency monitors who enters and exits mosques, and members, especially imams, are subject to interrogation.

Muslim youth in particular are heavily targeted by CSIS. Those who practice their religion are frequently subject to interrogation, “often without their parents' permission.”

Muslim university students told the researchers that they have found recording devices in their campus prayer spaces, and had their social media scanned.

The study has found that a key CSIS “tactical strategy is the use of coercive techniques to pressure ordinary citizens.”

Critics would argue these coercive techniques in Canada and beyond are attempts to target Muslims to avoid any activism, which differ from the Western narrative on domestic and foreign policy.

Activism or political activism is something peaceful which should be of no concern to spy agencies.

This is alluded to in the latest research which states:

“Those politically active and critical of the Canadian state found themselves at higher risk for interrogation. In our study, we found those who criticize state policies — particularly

concerning politics in the Middle East (West Asia) — come under increased surveillance.

We were informed of the deep chilling effect this has on Muslim communities. Those we interviewed spoke about being fearful of voicing their concerns regarding state practices, as they believe this would incur CSIS surveillance.”

Even the widespread criticism of Muslim activists in the U.S., Canada and Europe for allowing so much airspace to extremists and banning Muslims from the airwaves fell on deaf ears.

The report highlights that in recent years, Canada has witnessed the highest number of Muslims killed in hate-motivated attacks out of all the G7 countries.

That's the G7 countries only.

The research states “CSIS is just one institution that racially targets Muslims. There are a host of other counter-terrorism laws and practices that also operate to reproduce racist perceptions and assumptions about Muslims.”

It cites documented examples such as how Muslims are racially treated at Canadian airports and border crossings, pointing out that the measures are endemic practices of institutionalized racism.

“They target Canadian Muslims, exacerbate racial profiling and subject people to demeaning treatment,” The research report says.

Other disturbing examples cited in the study is how the country's domestic spy agency uses aggressive tactics such as making “unannounced visits to people's homes in the middle of night; actions that intimidated entire families, including children. We were informed that this is a common practice as

individuals are unable to access legal counsel or community support at such times.”

The research also focuses on the legislation that prohibits public school teachers, police officers, judges and government lawyers, among other civil servants, from wearing religious symbols, such as the hijab, turbans, yarmulkes and crosses while at work in Quebec.

The bill has been criticized for unfairly impacting Muslim communities, particularly Muslim women.

It further highlights the response to remarks made by Amira Elghawaby after she posted an opinion piece that said French Canadians were the largest group in Canada to be victimized by British colonialism.

Elghawaby was appointed as Canada's first Special Representative on Combating Islamophobia in January 2023.

In response to an opinion piece by a Canadian Muslim woman, the leader of the political party Bloc Quebecois, Yves-Francois Blanchet, has called on the federal government to scrap the position of the special representative on combating Islamophobia altogether.

A position that was formed just last month.

The truth is Canada was founded by racism with its attacks on the indigenous people.

Further attempts to wipe out the natives in the 19th century, indigenous and Native American children were dragged from their homes and placed in school institutions operated by the government and churches.

They were forced to assimilate to the government's preferred way of life, often through violence and other forms of torture such as sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

at the province's ports.

The Northern Ireland Protocol has sparked persistent disagreement between the the two sides since it was agreed.

Critics, including Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), say the protocol undermines the province's position within the rest of the UK as well as impacting trade.

Negotiations have been underway to ease the trading rules.

Sunak has sought amendments to the protocol, taking a less combative approach to engagement with the EU on the issue.

Speaking to the Sunday Times, the prime minister said he wanted to show that Brexit “works for every part of the United Kingdom,” adding, however, that “the idea that the EU can impose laws on Northern Ireland without them having any say isn't acceptable.”

The new deal marks a high-risk strategy for Sunak who has been looking to improve relations with Brussels - and the United States - without alienating the wing of his party most wedded to Brexit.

It remains to be seen whether it will go far enough to end the political deadlock in Northern Ireland and satisfy critics in Britain and the province.

(Source: Press TV)

WORLD HEADLINES

‘We don’t accept coercion,’ China tell US

China on Monday said Washington has “no right” to point fingers at Beijing’s relations with Moscow after the US accused China of “considering sending lethal equipment” to Russia to aid in its war against Ukraine.

“China has been actively promoting peace talks and political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. The US has no right to point fingers at China-Russia relations and we do not accept coercion,” said Mao Ning, spokeswoman for China’s Foreign Ministry.

“The US has not only continued to send lethal weapons to the battlefield in Ukraine but also continued to sell weapons to China’s Taiwan region in violation of the Three China-US joint Communiqués. What does the US really want?” Mao asked, according to the Chinese daily Global Times.

CIA Director William Burns had said on Sunday that Beijing was considering sending lethal equipment to Russia.

“We’re confident that the Chinese leadership is considering the provision of lethal equipment,” Burns said in an interview.

“We also don’t see that a final decision has been made yet. And we don’t see evidence of actual shipments of lethal equipment,” said Burns, adding it is important for US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Joe Biden “to make very clear what the consequences of that would be to deter it because it would be a very risky and unwise bet.”

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Sunday also said there would be “real costs” for China if it provides lethal weapons to Russia.

“From our perspective, actually, this war presents real complications for Beijing. And Beijing will have to make its own decisions about how it proceeds, whether it provides military assistance,” said Sullivan in a TV interview.

“But, if it goes down that road, it will come at real costs to China. And I think China’s leaders are weighing that as they make their decisions,” he added.

About US sanctions against Chinese companies accused of “backing Russia,” Mao said: “We will take firm countermeasures and firmly safeguard Chinese companies’ interest.”

Mao urged the US to stop “spreading misinformation” and lift sanctions.

Egypt showed friendship, fraternity in ‘difficult times,’ says Türkiye

Hailing the support and solidarity Egypt displayed immediately after deadly earthquakes shook southern Türkiye earlier this month, the Turkish foreign minister said Monday that the two countries were “opening a new chapter in relations.”

“Friendship and fraternity are evident during difficult times,” Mevlut Cavusoglu told a joint press conference with Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry, who is visiting southern Adana and Mersin regions.

After the two powerful earthquakes that occurred on Feb. 6, Egypt showed Türkiye its fraternity and friendship, Cavusoglu said.

He underlined that the two nations were “opening a new chapter in relations,” noting the “fruitful” meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Doha last November.

Cavusoglu said he and Shoukry addressed ways to further develop ties in a bilateral meeting at Adana’s Sakirpasa Airport.

“Developing relations between Türkiye and Egypt is in the interest of both countries, but not only for both countries but also important for the peace, stability, and development of our region,” the top Turkish diplomat added.

100 people feared dead in boat shipwreck

There are fears that more than 100 people, including children, have died after their boat sank in rough seas off southern Italy.

At least 62 migrants are confirmed to have died, with 12 children said to be among the victims, including a baby.

The vessel, thought to have carried some 200 people, broke apart while trying to land near Crotone on Sunday.

People from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Iraq and Iran were said to be on board.

Bodies were recovered from the beach at a nearby seaside resort in the Calabria region.

The coastguard said 80 people had been found alive, “including some who managed to reach the shore after the sinking”, meaning many more remain unaccounted for.

One survivor was arrested on migrant trafficking charges, customs police said.

Many of those on board were thought to be from Pakistan. Its Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said more than two dozen Pakistanis were believed to have been among the dead.

US drone strike kills 2 in central Yemen

At least two suspected militants from the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch were killed in a US drone strike in the country's central province of Marib, a military official said on Monday.

An unmanned aircraft from the US military fired a missile late on Sunday night and hit a house in Hosoun Al Jalal area in Marib province, the local military official, who asked to remain anonymous, told Xinhua.

“The strike destroyed the house belonging to a local tribal leader and killed two suspected militants of the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch,” the source said.

After the attack, members of the al-Qaida terrorist group rushed to the site of the bombing by car to collect the bodies, and then fled into a desert nearby, he added.



An aerial view of a yard where cars were torched overnight in the Palestinian town of Huwara near Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

Britain, EU strike Brexit deal for Northern Ireland: report



Britain and the European Union have reached a new agreement to resolve the Northern Ireland Protocol, a key sticking point in the post-Brexit trading arrangement, a government source said.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was expected to announce the new deal at a press conference Monday with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the Reuters news agency reported.

The source said Sunak had agreed the terms with Von der Leyen as they met at a hotel west of London.

Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, shares a long border with Ireland, a

member of the EU. How to arrange trade over the open border was one of the most difficult aspects of the Brexit negotiations when Britain left the EU in January 2020.

The Northern Ireland Protocol was agreed under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, according to which Northern Ireland remained within the EU's single market so that goods could flow freely over the border to Ireland without checks.

This means Northern Ireland has to follow the bloc's rules in relation to those movements.

However, some goods that go to Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, including from England, Scotland and Wales, are checked when they arrive

Research explores Persian Gulf, Makran coastline



From Page 1 ► the people of Iran have lived alongside the Persian Gulf and have enjoyed its endless benefits.

In addition to having vast resources of energy and economic significance, the Persian Gulf has an ancient and unique history and culture.

According to the book “Documents on the Persian Gulf’s Name, the Eternal Heritage of Ancient Time,” the term, the Persian Gulf and its equivalents have been used continuously since earlier than 400 BC in all languages, especially in the Arabic language.

On almost all maps printed before 1960,

and in most modern international treaties, documents, and maps, this body of water is known by the name “Persian Gulf.”

Located in the southern part of the Sistan-Baluchestan province, Makran is a semi-desert coastal strip along the coast of the Gulf of Oman.

The narrow coastal plain rises rapidly into several mountain ranges. Of the 1,000 kilometers of coastline, around 750 kilometers are in Pakistan. Makran is very sparsely inhabited, with much of the population concentrated in a string of small ports including Chabahar, Gwatar, Jiwani, Jask, Sirik, Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara, and many smaller fishing villages.

Newly discovered archaeological relics on show at National Museum

TEHRAN – The National Museum of Iran is playing host to an exhibition of relics recently been discovered across the country, ILNA reported on Monday.

The relics, dating from the Epipalaeolithic period to the Seljuk era (1037–1194), were discovered in different archaeological excavations across the country over the past Iranian year (ended on March 21, 2022), the report added.

The Epipaleolithic period represents a time when everyone in the world was a hunter-gatherer. But, in the Middle East, these groups were the last of the hunter-gatherers because the behavioral choices they made and subsistence strategies they undertook throughout several millennia led to one of the key economic transitions in prehistory – the origins of agriculture and the domestication of herd animals such as sheep and goats.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in



the Middle East.

Chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation, the National Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

Inside, among the finds from Shush, there's a stone capital of a winged lion, some delightful pitchers and vessels in animal shapes, and colorful glazed bricks decorated with double-winged mythical creatures. A copy of the diorite stele detailing the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, found at Shush in 1901, is also displayed – the original being in Paris.

Historical hotel in Rasht to gain former glory



TEHRAN –A restoration project has been commenced on Iran Hotel, one of the oldest accommodation centers in Rasht, the capital of the northern province of Gilan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 600 billion rials (\$1.5 million) has been allocated to the project, Vali Jahani explained on Monday.

The historical structure is planned to be ceded to the private sector after being fully restored, the official added.

Originally constructed as a residential

building in 1935, the building was later converted into an accommodation center.

It was registered on the national heritage list in 1977.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

Rasht goes one step further to become a world city of handicrafts

TEHRAN – The ancient city of Rasht is now one step closer to being recognized as a world city of handicrafts, a status given by the World Crafts Council, a local tourism director has said.

Vali Jahani welcomed WCC assessors who arrived in Rasht on Sunday to evaluate the city and its surroundings for their prestigious status during their two-day mission, Mehr quoted the Gilan province's tourism chief as saying on Monday.

Rasht has been nominated for the title of “world handicrafts city” as the ancient city has long been a hub for wood-turning, traditional needlework that is called Rashti-duzi by the locals, marquetry, woodcarving, leatherwork, pottery, and traditional textiles, Jahani explained.

“The assessors are scheduled to visit several destinations including a rural heritage museum, traditional workshops and bazaars of handicrafts, and a cultural heritage museum dedicated to Rashti-duzi,” Jahani said.

Moreover, they will have meetings with local artisans and craftspeople to hear their opinions, suggestions, and concerns, the official noted.

Currently, more than 27,000



artisans are working in 42 different fields of handicrafts across Gilan province.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official said that Rasht is registered as the national city of Rashti-duzi, which is a crochet and sewing work traditionally practiced in Rasht and its surrounding villages. Crochet and needlework were combined by the masters to enhance the beauty of their products, resulting in very elegant patterns.

The introduction of Rasht as the world city of handicrafts

is considered a very valuable opportunity for the ancient city, Jahani said.

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022– Jan. 20, 2023), Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, the deputy tourism minister, said on Saturday. Compared with the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth, she said.

The Islamic Republic exported some \$320 million worth of

handicrafts during the past Iranian year (1400), Jalali Dehkordi stated.

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

The WCC-Asia-Pacific Region designated Shiraz, Malayer, Zanjan, and the village of Qasemabad in January 2020, bringing the total number of craft cities and towns in Iran from 10 to 14. Shiraz has been dubbed “the world city of [various] handicrafts.”

Malayer became a center for woodcarving and carved wood furniture on a global scale. The designation “world city of filigree” was given to Zanjan. The village of Qasemabad, which is renowned throughout the country for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a major handicrafts center on an international scale.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the United States, and the coastal states of the Persian Gulf are among the countries that traditionally import ceramics, porcelain, hand-woven clothing, personal jewelry, and semi-precious stones from Iran.

Petroglyph bearing Sadi poem discovered in Marvdasht

TEHRAN – There has been a recent discovery of a historical rock drawing in Marvdasht, southern Fars province, ILNA reported on Monday.

The petroglyph contains verses from a poem by the Persian poet Sheikh Muslih od-Din Sadi Shirazi, said Iranian archaeologist Abolhassan Atabaki.

This poem was probably carved on this rock centuries after it was written, he explained.

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

In January, Atabaki announced that a Sassanid-era petroglyph, written on the subject of wishing for a holy marriage for an Iranian lady, was discovered in the region.

An ancient rock drawing of a Sassanid-era horseman was also discovered in Marvdasht, he mentioned.

Abu-Muhammad Muslih al-Din bin Abdallah

Shirazi, known by his pen-name Sadi, was one of the major Persian poets of the medieval period. Sadi is known as a mystic and metaphysician in the history of Persian literature. He is recognized for the quality of his writings and the depth of his social and moral thoughts. The ancient scholar has gained worldwide fame, not only in Persian-speaking countries but in western societies, with his poems being quoted in a multitude of sources.

Sadi's best-known masterpieces are Bustan (The Orchard) completed in 1257 and Gulistan (The Flower Garden) in 1258. Bustan, his best-known work, was completed in 1257. It includes 4,000 verses in 183 stories about the virtues such as justice, kindness, love, modesty, liberality, generosity, satisfaction, and happiness, and the ecstatic practices of dervishes addressing all people to have a better and happier life.

A year after the completion of Bustan, Sadi composed his masterpiece, Gulistan. Gulistan, composed of eight chapters, is mainly in prose. The book was widely addresses kings' morality, dervishes' behavior, benefits of contentment,



silence and talking in proper time, love and youthfulness, weakness in old age and education. Sadi attempts to advise people to live freely and to improve the quality of their lives in Gulistan. It is one of the most effective books in prose in Persian literature.

Sadi's other works include Ghazals (love poems or Lyrics; sonnets), qasidas (longer mono-rhyme poems or Odes), quatrains, and short pieces in prose in both Persian and Arabic. He is known as one of the greatest ghazal-writers of Persian poetry besides Hafiz.

Iran to host Ancient Civilizations Forum, tourism minister says

TEHRAN – Iran will be hosting the seventh ministerial meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Sunday.

The next ministerial meeting of the Forum of Ancient Civilizations will be held in Tehran in 1402 (the next Iranian calendar year that starts on March 21), Zarghami said, in an address to an archaeology conference.

The forum will bring together ministers and representatives from Iran, Greece, China, Bolivia, Egypt,



Iraq, Italy, and Peru, with the addition of Armenia, which are cradles of ancient civilizations.

The Ancient Civilizations Forum aims to promote international ex-

changes, strengthen multilateral cooperation, safeguard cultural diversity and world culture, uphold civilization's legacy and advancement and arouse the vitality of ancient civilization's wisdom in order to offer a solution to issues facing modern society.

The term civilization essentially describes the developmental stage at which people can live in peace in groups. The earliest safe and settled settlements that served as the foundation for later states, nations, and empires are specifically referred to as “ancient civilizations.”

Ancient history began with the invention of writing around 3100 BC, and it spanned more than 35 centuries. Even though humanity existed before the written word, writing has made it possible to pre-serve a historical record.

Along with written accounts and carved inscriptions, the work of archaeologists is the primary source of knowledge about ancient peoples. The majority of significant archaeological discoveries have been made over the past two centuries.

Exquisite bronze relics ultimate sign of Lorestan civilization, official says

TEHRAN – Loristan Bronzes, a treasure of small cast objects that date from the Early Iron Age, is an ultimate icon of the Lorestan region in terms of civilization and artistic excellence, a local tourism director said on Sunday.

Ata Hassanpur, who is Lorestan province's tourism chief, said bronze artifacts, which have been discovered in Lorestan, testify to millennia of human inhabitation in this region, as well as the mastery of art and taste of their creators.

Depicting a wide variety of elements such as horsemen, warriors, and farmers of the ancient world, Loristan Bronzes have been a means of transmitting ancestral arts, traditions, and religious concepts, the official explained.

The official added that the introduction and protection of this eternal heritage of Lorestan was a priority of its cultural heritage directorate.

In that regard, a selection of ten bronze objects was registered on the national list for cultural heritage earlier this month, he said.

The registered objects included a bronze ax with the shape of a human, a bronze ax with the shape of a lion, a sharpener with an antelope pattern, a bronze dagger, a sharpener handle with a horse head pattern, a sharpener handle with a lion head pattern, a pickaxe head.

According to an article published by National Geographic last year, when exquisite bronze figures began flooding the antiques market in the late 1920s, nobody knew much about them. Artworks of people and animals embossed bronze cups, and delicate pins thrilled dealers, who were awed by their beauty.

Their origins were questioned, but the responses were a little hazy. Dealers would only refer to the Luristan region of the Zagros Mountains, which is now known as Lorestan and is located in western Iran, as a settlement or civilization.

The deluge of Luristan bronzes began in the fall of 1928 in the sleepy town of Harsin, some 20 miles east of Kermanshah. A local farmer

uncovered several beautiful bronze objects in his fields and sold them.

Word of his finds spread, and soon the town filled with dealers who bought these works of art and then sold them on to museums and private collections. It was a profitable arrangement that suited many parties, and very little was done to stop it.

Great interest in excavating these bronzes arose among both academics and locals. Andre? Godard, the director of the Iranian Archaeological Service in 1928, described the method used by the locals to detect a site to excavate.

In June 1938, Schmidt's team explored Surkh Dum, a settlement site in Luristan. Before this dig, unauthorized excavations in the area resulted in the removal of many bronzes, resulting in the loss of valuable information about the site's history. Local authorities finally put a stop to the looting, and Schmidt focused his efforts on uncovering what remained.

From page 1 ► On December 23, 2022, a national specialized workshop for 'risk communication and social participation' was held in order to empower health workers in the supplementary vaccination campaign for the refugee population with the participation of UNICEF.

Considering the Risk Communication and Social Participation Program (RCCE) is one of the most important health promotion programs the program was a combination of information campaigns, health promotion, social mobilization, attracting people participation and other organizations, and establishing effective communication.

In May 2022, it was announced that all foreign immigrants and refugees under the age of five would be vaccinated against polio and measles. Children under the age of five and foreign immigrants will be inoculated through door-to-door visits in high-risk



First phase of vaccinating foreign nationals completed

All foreign nationals and refugees under the age of five will be vaccinated against polio and measles.

areas across the country. The measles vaccination program in Iran started in 1984 when 34 percent of the population was vaccinated in the first year and 90 to 95 percent of the population after 6 years.

Also in 2003, 33 million people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country. Concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing as the Afghan population grows. Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under 5 years of age. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the fecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade

the nervous system and cause paralysis. Measles is caused by a virus in the paramyxovirus family and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air. The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals. More than 140,000 people died from measles in 2018 – mostly children under the age of 5 years, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. The inhumane sanctions have had devastating effects on the health system and the question is who is responsible for the deaths of some innocent patients due to the lack of essential medicines, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said. He made the remarks at the 69th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, which was held in Egypt on October 10-13, 2022. Einollahi said in July 2022 that despite the sanctions that have existed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution to prevent the country from progressing, Iran has the strongest health system in the region.

Qatar provides fund for Afghan students in Iran

TEHRAN – The Qatar Fund for Development has provided some five million euros to support Afghan students in Iran. The Iranian Charity Schools Association signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Fund for Development in Tehran on Sunday with the aim of supporting the education of Afghan students in Iran, Tasnim reported. According to the agreement, the Qatar Fund for Development will provide €4,878 to support projects on educational opportunities for Afghan children who are out of school or at risk of dropping out. The MOU was inked in a ceremony by Nasser Qofli, the head of the Iranian Charity Schools Association, Hassan Kazemi-Qomi, the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, and Khalifa Jassim Al-Kuwari, the director general of the Qatar Fund for Development.

“It is our duty to provide a suitable educational environment in Iran for students of any nationality, especially Afghan students, therefore we consider ourselves the representative and the voice of Afghan children to support their right to access education,” Qofli highlighted. The Qatari official, for his part, said: “Today, I visited one of the schools for Afghan students in the city of Tehran, and I appreciate the facilities and infrastructure that you provide to Afghan children.” Kazemi-Qomi also pointed out that some 670,000 Afghan students are studying in Iranian schools. Meanwhile, about 34,000 Afghan nationals are studying in Iranian uni-

versities. “We encourage them to return to their country after completing their education to participate in the prosperity and development of Afghanistan.” The Ministry of Interior has announced to the Ministry of Education a list of 200,000 Afghan children who have the conditions to study in Iranian schools, Ali Hamed, an official with the Education Ministry, said in November 2022. The Ministry of Education has the capacity and potential to provide them with educational conditions and facilities equal to other Iranian students, he added.

The literacy rate among refugees has increased significantly in recent decades.

“We are trying our best to make Afghan students living in Iran go to school, and one of our approaches in this field is to help develop and increase standard educational physical spaces,” he noted. “Our annual fund is partly financed by the Ministry and partly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. If we allocate it to schools where only Afghans study, we cannot provide education to those who study with Iranian nationals,” he explained.



Afghan students can also take the exam of elite educational centers and compete in equal conditions with other Iranian students and continue their studies in exceptional talents schools, he stated. The literacy rate among refugees has increased significantly in recent decades. So that the literacy rate of Afghan immigrants in Iran is higher than the number of literate people in Afghanistan, according to a report published in June 2022 by the research center of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis). Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban-takeover-are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world. Many of the refugees living in Iran are second and third-generation, according to the UNHCR.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran well rid of 153 swarms of desert locusts

Some 153 swarms of desert locusts from Saudi Arabia which penetrated into the southeastern provinces have been controlled, Esmaeil Najjar, head of Iran's Crisis Management Organization has said. Since the [Iranian calendar] month of Bahman (starting on January 21) we fought swarms of desert locust in approximately 532,000 hectares of farming lands, IRNA news agency quoted Najjar as saying on Saturday. Provinces of Bushehr, Fars, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Hormozgan, Kerman, Khuzestan, and Sistan-Baluchestan have been affected by the locusts which incurred major losses on farming lands and gardens. Farm lands in the aforementioned provinces have undergone aerial spraying of chemical insecticides and ground pest control operations, he stated.

۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی نابود شدند

رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: ۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی که به استان های جنوب شرقی کشور حمله ور شده بودند، نابود شده است. اسماعیل نجار روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا درباره آخرین اقدامات برای مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی در کشور، گفت: از بهمن ۹۷ تاکنون در ۵۳۱ هزار و ۸۸۸ هکتار مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی انجام شده است. تاکنون در استان های خوزستان ، بوشهر ، فارس ، هرمزگان ، کرمان، سیستان و بلوچستان، جنوب کرمان، و کهگیلویه و بویراحمد اراضی و باغات مورد هجوم ملخ های صحرایی و خسارات جبران ناپذیری قرار گرفته اند. این مناطق با استفاده از هواپیما سمپاشی هوایی و از طریق نیروی انسانی سمپاشی زمینی شده است.

Zimbabwe eager to use Iranian expertise in medical sector

TEHRAN – Constantino Dominic Chiwenga, the Zimbabwean Health and Child Care Minister, has praised Iran's progress in the healthcare sector, voicing interest to benefit from Iranian expertise in this regard. Zimbabwe is ready and interested to start the production of medicines, vaccines, and medical equipment with the help and cooperation of Iran, Chiwenga said. He made the remarks after signing an agreement with his Iranian counterpart Bahram Einollahi in Tehran on Sunday. Elsewhere, the Zimbabwean official said: “We are rebuilding the structure of the Ministry of Health.” In this line, he called for Iranian officials to help and support Zimbabwe in providing knowledge and expertise. “We welcome exchanging professors and academics as well as holding joint scientific conferences,” he said, adding, “We are also interested in benefiting from Iran's experiences in the field of medicine, medical equipment, blood banks, as well as vaccines.” Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy, Health Minister Bahram Einoullahi has said. One of the successful aspects of health diplomacy in the region is this cooperation, he said, adding, “We are looking to implement this

program in the region as in European countries to facilitate the exchange of students and professors, and to facilitate their participation in international conferences.” Developing international health relations with different countries and organizations is one of the government's strategies, he added. “Iran is ready to cooperate with other countries in holding international conferences in the field of health.” In September 2022, Iran hosted the subregional workshop for G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) on health cooperation with the presence of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and the representative of the World Health Organization. Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was held in Uzbekistan, President Ebrahim Raisi signed an agreement with the countries of the Caspian Sea region, according to which the member countries will cooperate with each other in the field of health. In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care. For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

Where and when next major earthquakes may occur?

(Part 3) The Iranian Plateau is located in the north of the Arabian plate along a wide area of deformation, which is a part of the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt between the Arabian plate in the southwest and the Eurasian plate in the northeast. The Strait of Hormuz region in the south of Iran has the highest seismic activity in the region and its formation is related to the continuation of the convergent movement between the Arabian plate and the central continental plate of Iran. The Zagros Mountain belt is formed in the collision zone between the Arabian and Eurasian plates, and this active convergence has led to a lot of seismicity in this region. Many and frequent earthquakes occur mainly 2 to 15 km deep in the seismogenic layer. The rate of shortening is faster in the southeast than in the northwest, and this is due to the counterclockwise rotation of the Arabian sheet. Seismicity The entire region has a significant seismic risk. The Arabian plate is surrounded by areas of high seismicity. The calculation of this seismicity is of great importance for the assessment of seismic hazard and risk, seismic zoning, and land use. Plate boundary friction has been responsible for very destructive earthquakes in the past. In 1138 and 13 August 1822, earthquakes with a magnitude of 7 to 7.5 caused the destruction

and casualties of several thousand people in the Syrian city of Aleppo. On the Zagros Main Recent Fault a dextral strike-slip mechanism is representative, i.e in the Silakhor earthquake of 23 January 1909, with a magnitude of 7.4 on the Doroud fault, and In the folded Zagros belt, the Sarpole Zahab earthquake of 12 November 2017, on the Zahab basement fault, Mw7.3, is the largest recorded events in the Zagros belt. The destructive earthquakes of 6 February 2023 occurred in the south of Turkey with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5 due to the rupture in the northwestern border of the Arabian plate along the eastern Anatolian fault zone. Assessing the probability of the next important earthquake in the Arabian plate In order to predict and evaluate the next important earthquakes, the theory of plate displacement and stress accumulation on a locked fault is generally implied, along with the observations of past earthquakes on that fault and the current speed of plate movement. Based on this model, in the epicentral zone of the 6 February 2023 earthquakes, the return period of an earthquake with an M7.5 is about 370 years, and for an Mw7.8 is about 1700 years. Such return time is required for enough Stress to build up on the fault in order to cause another major earthquake. To be continued



Funeral ceremony held for fallen firefighter

A funeral ceremony was held on Monday for Gharib-Reza Darabi, a firefighter who lost his life during an operation in Tehran on Saturday. September 29 marks the National Day of Firefighters. The history of firefighting in Iran goes back to 1842 when the first fire station was established in the city of Tabriz.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If a Muslim plants a tree or any plant and a human, bird, or any other animals use it, Allah counts it as an act of charity.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17 Evening: 18:16 Dawn: 5:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

Iran: classical Persian literature

Part 12

For example, the Book of Marzban (Marzban-nama, 13th century) rendered into fine Persian a collection of original tales (known from the 10th century) from the province of Tabarestan. The Book of Sindbad (Sandbad-nama), a collection of stories within a framed narrative, originated in India and was translated into Middle Persian.

Much later, it was narrated in elegant Persian by Zaheri of Samarqand at the court of the Qarakhanids. The plot describes how in seven days seven viziers rescue a young prince from death and save him from false accusations of seduction.

The book is a political treatise containing a favorite medieval theme, ‘the wiles of women.’ Another example of a similar structure is the Book of Bakhtiar, originating in a Middle Persian source that was then translated into Arabic and subsequently into Persian. Here the viziers’ misdeeds are described and denounced in ten stories.

In the 11th century, the Qabus-nama, written by Prince Keykavus of Tabarestan, shortly after 1082, introduces a different kind of a mirror and at times offers somewhat sardonic counsel, while the overall content is supported by a well-articulated argument.

The various anecdotes that embellish its elegant prose are culled from the historiography of the period and buttress the pragmatic assertions in the book.

It contains forty-three chapters that deal with morality, behavior, and customs successively, and describe various occupations and professions.

A final and completely different chapter is an invaluable treatise on the noble and chivalrous conduct in the kind of milieu frequented by Samak, referred to earlier.

At the end of the 11th century, Nezam al-Molk, the renowned vizier of the Seljuks, wrote his Book of Government or Rules for Kings (Siyar al-muluk or Siyasat-nama), a major work in simple yet elegant prose containing political comment on contemporary history.

In turn, the Book of Advice to Kings (Nasihat al-muluk) is the work of the great theologian Mohammad Ghazali, completed circa 1105.

An introduction deals with the fundamentals of faith for a prince in power. Seven stylistically eloquent chapters then examine the exercise of power and its pitfalls; the book became a classic of its genre.

Also worth citing is the Book of Political Aims (Aghraz al-siyasat) written shortly after 1157 by Zaheri, noted above. It is a part legendary, part historical account of 74 kings, their lives, and the maxims attributed to them.

Moral literature: A traditional literature of brief aphoristic sayings similar to proverbs has existed in Persian literature from very early on.

Even before Islam, Zoroastrian catechisms were in this genre (Aturpat-i Emetan). Gathered in large collections, these maxims provided a rich harvest for more elaborate works.

Ferdowsi’s Book of Kings contains many collections of moral and political advice originating in Middle Persian sources. In about 945, Abu Shakur wrote a long didactic poem (which has survived) composed of maxims.

Sufi treatises drew heavily from similar collections. Well-known Persian works, already cited, such as Ghazali’s Alchemy of Happiness (Kimiya-ye sa’adat), The Garden of Truth by Sanai, and Sadi’s Golestan, are indebted to this kind of literature.

Nezami took an innovative approach by inventing collections of advice of his own which attempt

to show that, confronted with their destiny, human beings are nevertheless able to strive towards intellectual and moral perfection.

Notable Iranian writers in turn composed works in Arabic on ethics inspired by Greek thought. The treatises by Farabi, Avicenna, and Ebn Meskawayh are well known documents of ethics and moral philosophy.

In Persian, Nasir ad-Din Tusi (1201-1274) excelled in this subject with his Nasirean Ethics (Akhlāq-e naseri). In two chapters of his Tasawworat (Reflections), he clarified his thought in personal terms and from the perspective of Ismaili philosophy.

Tusi’s Ethics is based on the Greek tripartite division of morality: the individual, the family, and the polis, concluding with a collection of advice to the prince in Persian that has traditionally been attributed to Plato. Tusi considered this work to be an epitome of all that he had valued in his predecessors.

The great legacy of these important moralists was to create a language of morals in Persian that would inspire the succeeding generations and provide them with a vehicle for further speculations.

Later, in the 14th century, a period of intense political turmoil, Obeyd-e Zakani’s (1300-1371) satirical work managed to create the most radical expression of a morality turned immoral in order to unsettle and lampoon a society and depict it in a way which would have been unrecognizable to previous generations.

Sufi literature in Persian: Sufism played a major role in the process of Islamization of the Iranian world.

The literary expression of its doctrine suited its didactic approach, which entailed initiating, then guiding its audience on the spiritual path.

Its devotional intensity inspired monumental works in Persian literature. Sufism sought perfection of the soul. Moving from austerity to asceticism, it soon advocated the path of love.

It prompted its audience to reach beyond themselves, leading them to recognize the true self. Sufism could also lead to a form of ecstatic mysticism.

Literary works ensued to comment upon this and guide the seeker along the path. One must recall here that two schools of Greek philosophy, Stoicism and Neoplatonism, had a great influence on the history of the three great monotheistic religions.

At its most basic, Sufism is a relationship between a master and his disciple, between the Beloved as the heralding angel and the Lover as the seeker.

A number of Sufi movements were formed based on this relationship, but not before the 13th century. In the Iranian cultural sphere, two Sufi tendencies first stood out.

In the partially Islamicized rural environment of Khorasan, Ebn Karram (d. 869) headed a pietistic movement with a substantial following, while in the more urban milieu Hamdun al-Qassar (d. 884) encouraged an intimate form of piety focusing on self-blame as a form of asceticism. It is mainly this malamati movement that greatly influenced Iranian Sufism and its literary production.

Poetry by Hafez, who was not a Sufi, can be read from this perspective. The Karrami movement met with early opposition and suppression because of its political implications (Shafiei Kadkani, 1999).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued.

Artist Ruholamin pays tribute to firefighter killed in Bahar Street blaze

From Page 1 ► By his art, Ruholamin, best known for his paintings of stories from the history of Islam, has also expressed sympathy over several other public incidents.

The most recent one was “Tulips Have Grown from the Blood of Our Land’s Youth” produced in October in response to the ISIS terrorist attack in Shiraz that claimed 13 lives.

He also did “The Apocalyptic

Companion of Aba Abdillah” in memory of Quds Force commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani just hours after his assassination in a U.S. air raid in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

His works also appeal to major art centers around the world.

The Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow, Russia, is currently hosting an exhibition of his paintings named “Painting of the Heart”. The showcase will run until March 26.

“Qoqnus” by Hassan Ruholamin commemorates firefighter Gharibreza Darabi killed while battling an inferno in Tehran’s Bahar Street.

He also held a workshop at the Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow on the sidelines.

Iran welcomes cooperation on common luminaries with other countries: official

There have been claims on several Iranian luminaries such as Farabi and Nezami over the past few years.

In the most recent case, Nezami was erroneously called an Azerbaijani poet by the organizers of an exhibition held at the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow in 2021.

In the 2022 commemoration for Nezami, Shalvi said, “Some countries have organized meetings to commemorate the great poet and we praise such movements, but he must be introduced with his original Iranian identity.”

Nezami Ganjavi’s masterpieces have been composed entirely in Persian, without even a single verse in the Azerbaijani language.

He is mostly known for “Khamseh”, the two copies of which are preserved in Iran and were inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register list in 2011.

“Khamseh” is a pentology of poems written in Masnavi verse form (rhymed couplets) with a total of 30,000 couplets.

These five poems include the didactic work Makhzan ol-Asrar (The Treasury of Mysteries); the three traditional love stories of Khosrow and Shirin, Leili and Majnun, and Haft Paykar;

and the Eskandar-nameh, which records the adventures of Alexander the Great.

As part of the program, a rare copy of Nezami’s “Khamseh”, which is preserved at the library of the Shahid Motahhari School and Mosque in Tehran, will be showcased in an exhibition.

The copy and another edition, which is kept at the Central Library of the University of Tehran, are the ones that were registered by UNESCO.

This year’s commemoration for Nezami will begin on March 5. Iran’s National Orchestra will perform a concert with poems from Nezami at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall in a closing ceremony on Nezami Day, which falls on March 12.

As part of programs arranged for this festival, copies of “Khamseh” published by the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries will be offered.

School choirs will perform on March 12 at the foot of Tehran’s Azadi Tower and university students and scholars with top research on Nezami will be honored.

A sculpture of Nezami will be unveiled in Tehran Vanak Square and streets in several cities across the country will be named after the poet.

“The Edible Woman” comes to Iranian bookstores

Front cover of the Persian edition of Margaret Atwood’s novel “The Edible Woman”.

Suddenly empathizing with the steak in a restaurant, Marian finds she is unable to eat meat.

As the days go by, her feeling of solidarity extends to other categories of food, until there is almost nothing left that she can bring herself to consume.

“The Tall One”, intelligent, handsome martyr

An interview with Maliheh Nikbakht

The book “The Tall One” is a collection of stories about martyr Abbas Ali Khamri, compiled by Maliheh Nikbakht and published by Soore Mehr.

Writing books like this, and particularly ones on martyrs like Khamri, can convey to the community the idea that conflict and struggle are not just summed up in the military path but also in the cultural field.

Will you kindly describe the structure and content of the book?

This book, which is written in the style of oral history, is about a martyr who worked very hard in the cultural field before going to the front. The life of Abbas Ali Khamri is covered in this book, which includes chapters from each of his mother, brother, sister, and friends as well as their personal tales and memories of him.

How did you come to write about martyr Khamri?

Composing this book was not my idea; rather,

Soore Mehr suggested it, and I was glad to accept it since after doing research on him, I found how intelligent and engaging he was, and he himself was also interested in writing. So, I felt so inspired to learn more about him and his life.

Why did you choose this title for the book?

I chose this title for the book in part because the martyr’s companions described him as being exceedingly tall and handsome, and also because of his high status.

How many books have you written on the subject of the holy defense?

I created a collection of war-themed short stories called “A Trace of the Rain” before coming up with this piece, and one of the books I wrote about oral history that I reworked is called “The Representative.”

What ideas do you have to raise the holy defense book’s position?

Because the martyrs are considered a nation’s heroes, we always have a number of

characters who have been acknowledged as the authors of the sacred defense. Yet, it is good to allow others the chance to come and write in this space.

Do you currently have any new books in the works?

I have a few books on what happened during the pandemic time, about the jihadists who visited and helped the patients at the hospital, which I considered to be extremely reminiscent of the holy defense environment.