

Iranians Truly Oppose America

Gallup reveals the truth about Iranians' view of U.S. ▶ Page 3

World order shifting in favor of resistance against hegemons: Raisi

TEHRAN- Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, has asserted that the world's order is shifting in favor of the opposition front and against both the Israeli regime and global arrogance as well.

The remarks were delivered by the Iranian president during a Sunday night phone call with his Syrian counterpart, Bashar al-Assad, as Israeli aggression against the downtrodden Palestinian people escalated.

Raisi said that the world is shifting towards the resistance axis and against the Zionist regime and the arrogant system.

He added, "The crimes of Israeli regime are a sign of its weakness and desperation and it is proof that the future is bright and promising for the resistance movement."

Raisi stressed the significance of upholding Syria's national sovereignty and argued that doing otherwise will make it impossible to combat terrorism. ▶ Page 2

Israel too tiny to pose threats: Iran army chief

TEHRAN- Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, commander of the Iranian Army, on Monday mocked the notion that the Zionist regime could invade Iran without U.S. assistance, asserting that Israel is too little to even be contemplated as a danger to the Islamic Republic.

The top commander made the remarks in response to recent remarks by Herzi Halevi, chief of staff of the Israeli military forces, claiming the regime's preparedness to strike Iran even without assistance from the United States.

"We are prepared to take action against Iran," Halevi boasted on Wednesday, adding, "The Israeli army has the capability to hit both distant and close countries."

In his statement, General Mousavi said such threats are "intended to boost the morale of the Israeli military troops and address the internal issues of the Zionist regime." ▶ Page 2

Iran Greco-Roman team crowned champions of Asia

TEHRAN – Iran Greco-Roman claimed the title of the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships on Monday.

Team Melli claimed four gold medals, two silvers and one bronze.

Pouya Dadmarz in 55kg, Iman Mohammadi in 63kg, Nasser Alizadeh 87kg and Amin Mirzazadeh in 130kg claimed four gold medals in the competition.

Amin Kavianinejad in 77kg and Sajad Imen-talab in 72kg seized two silver medals, while Alireza Mohmadi took a bronze in 82kg.

The competitions have brought about 300 wrestlers from 24 countries together in Astana, Kazakhstan from April 9 to 14.

The nations competing in Astana will be eligible to compete at the World Championships in September, the first qualifying event for Paris 2024.

Our Iftar Will Be in Al-Quds



© Tehran Times/ Saeed Reza Razavi

TEHRAN – In the holy month of Ramadan, a campaign entitled "Our Iftar Will Be in Al-Quds" has been organized in Palestine Square located in downtown Tehran.

Before the beginning of the month of Ramadan, graffiti of Lebanese artists on the barrier wall built

by the Israelis became the first recorded images of this campaign on social media that soon became viral among Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Last week, hundreds of Palestinians had their Iftar meal at Al-Aqsa courtyards, while the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas had called for wide participation of the Palestinians at communal prayers and religious ceremonies at the holy site.

Now, people set the Iftar table in Tehran in the hope of the day when occupied Al-Quds will be free and prayers will be held in Al-Aqsa Mosque. And spread the Iftar table in that holy place. ▶ Page 7

Over 9.3m tons of goods transited via Iranian roads in a year

TEHRAN- More than 9.3 million tons of commodities were transited through the Iranian roads network during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the head of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) announced.

Referring to the growth of about one per-

cent of road transit via Iran compared to the year 1400 and a 42 percent growth compared to the year 1398 (the year before the outbreak of the coronavirus), Dariyoush Amani said: "Despite the relative change in terms of tonnage, in terms of the number of transit truck trips we have seen a four percent

growth year on year".

He said Bazargan border terminal, in northwestern West Azarbaijan province, with a 16 percent growth in transit, was the most active transit border in the past year compared to the previous year. ▶ Page 4



Caucasus tensions are to no country's advantage, Iran's security chief says

TEHRAN – Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said late on Sunday that tension and violence in the Caucasus region are detrimental to all of the countries that are involved, reiterating Tehran's opposition to any change to the region's geography. ▶ Page 2

Discover mausoleum of 12th-century Sufi theologian and poet

TEHRAN – The mausoleum complex of Sheikh Ahmad-e Jami is a collection of religious buildings, mosques, houses, and tombstones set around the central tombstone of the Iranian Sufi theologian and poet who lived between 1048 and 1141.

Located in Torbat-e Jam of the Khorasan region in northeast Iran, the historical ensemble, which draws tens of travelers, researchers, and history buffs each day, has secured patronage from Mon-

gols, Kartids, Tamerlane, and Timurids over time.

According to Archnet, art historian Lisa Golombek has identified ten structures on the site that were built in eight different phases beginning in the early thirteenth century.

The ensemble is oriented with qibla along the northeast-southwest axis. It has a single gateway that gives access to the shrine courtyard, which is enveloped by halls of different sizes to the north-

west and southwest.

The core of the complex is the grand Dome Chamber (gonbad) which was constructed in 1236 by a descendant of Seljuk Sultan Sanjar. The gonbad is located to the southwest of the Sheikh's uncovered grave.

The domed chamber lies in the heart of the complex from 1236. It measures ten meters per side and is crowned with a star-ribbed dome carried on muqarnas squinches. ▶ Page 6

Interview

It is essential to consider AI impact on language and culture: American scientist

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN- Steven T. Piantadosi, a professor at UC Berkeley in psychology and neuroscience, says as artificial intelligence becomes more prevalent in our lives, it is essential to consider its potential impact on language and culture and ensure that it is developed in a way that promotes diversity and inclusivity.

The relationship between AI and language is a vital area of study, he told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

"Large language models have shown recently that statistical learning can acquire all kinds of different structures, including probably those needed for syntax and semantics." ▶ Page 7

From Inside

- Restoration of Tehran-Riyadh ties will benefit Muslim world: MP **P3**
- Raisi says Zionist society disintegrating **P3**
- Investment making rising in Chabahar Free Zone **P4**
- Macron says Europe must cut reliance on US dollar, seek 'strategic autonomy' **P5**
- ECO ambassadors invited to Ardabil's nomad festival **P6**
- "The Dream of a Horse", "Deer" to compete in Trento Film Festival **P8**
- "Sources of Architectural Form" comes to Iranian bookstores **P8**

Tehran Papers

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

Multidimensional advantages of Iran's drone power

In a report, the Vatan-e-Emrooz newspaper discussed the unveiling of the IRGC's new drone called Meraj 532 and the dimensions and achievements of Iran's drone power. ▶ Page 2

Iranian delegation due in Saudi Arabia for talks on reopening embassy

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian diplomat has said that an Iranian delegation will travel to Saudi Arabia soon to discuss procedures for reopening Iran's diplomatic missions in the Arab country.

The diplomat, Alireza Enayati, who is the head of the Persian Gulf Bureau at the Iranian foreign ministry, said on Sunday that Iran has held preliminary talks with the Saudi side in this regard. He said all the arrangements have been done for the Iranian delegation to travel to Saudi Arabia. ▶ Page 3

Israel embroiled in own problems: Iran

TEHRAN- Nasser Kanaani, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, revealed on Monday that a Saudi delegation has toured Iran to follow up on the matter of reopening diplomatic missions in Tehran and Mashhad.

Speaking with reporters, Kanaani noted that a Saudi delegation arrived in Tehran on Saturday and is currently working to reopen their embassy in Tehran and their consulate in Mashhad.

This is done in accordance with a recent agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran to restore diplomatic relations. ▶ Page 2

Ruholamin's new artwork honors Imam Ali's martyrdom anniversary

TEHRAN – Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin has commemorated the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (AS) with his new canvas entitled "The Candle of Bayt al-Mal".

The painting, which portrays a story from the Imam's concern for justice during his caliphate, was unveiled on Ruholamin's Instagram on Monday, just two days before his martyrdom anniversary.

In his post, Ruholamin wrote that the artwork has been created to commemorate the major event in the history of Islam and dedicated it to his followers. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Multidimensional advantages of Iran's drone power

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

from page 1 ► It wrote: These days, Iran's drone power has helped the diplomacy economy. These days, drones can be used as an important goods in the military field. This issue can help the Islamic Republic to bypass sanctions. In addition to military and economic advantages, drones increase the bargaining power in their region. For example, several neighboring countries have requested to receive drones from Iran, and in the end, the winner of this competition may become a strategic security partner for the exporting country, and this topic is dangerous for other countries. The Islamic Republic has also established bases for the manufacture of drones in Tajikistan and Venezuela. The importance of establishing this type of base in Caracas while the United States considers Latin American as its backyard is a big alarm for Washington. At one time only America had to control the Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf, but today Iran is building its own powerful drones in America's neighborhood.

Shargh: Achievements of reviving relations with Saudi Arabia

Shargh analyzed Iran's diplomatic breakthrough with Saudi Arabia and wrote: The revival of these relations in the first step prevents erosive tensions as well as political, diplomatic, human, military, defense, security, logistic and economic expenses. And more importantly, the establishment of these relations will greatly help to improve the security of the two countries, West Asia and the wider region. And clearly the end of war in Yemen will be at the top and priority of this achievement.

Javan: Iran and Russia on the way to delete the dollar

In a note, the Javan newspaper addressed the issue of de-dollarization of the Iranian economy and wrote: The issue of ending the dominance of the dollar from economic exchanges is very important for Iran. During the meeting of Igor Levitin, the special assistant of Russian President Vladimir Putin, with Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of our country, which took place on Sunday afternoon in Tehran, Shamkhani emphasized that "the path started to reduce the influence of the dollar in economic exchanges in the region and wider world, which many countries are joining, will reduce the dominance of the West over the global economy to the minimum possible level.

In a commentary, the Farhikhtegan newspaper discussed the different dimensions and aspects of de-dollarization in the world: With the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war and the American use of the dollar instrument, the issue of de-dollarization has become a hot topic. A look at various indicators shows that the news about the fall of the dollar or the intensity of de-dollarization has been greatly exaggerated. But this does not mean that talking about de-dollarization is an illusion

because according to recent reports by the International Monetary Fund, the share of the dollar in the world's currency reserves has decreased from 71% in 2000 to 58% this year.

The Sobh-e-No newspaper also devoted some material to the issue of de-dollarization based on the views of an economic expert who says: After Russia's war on Ukraine, the United States tried to take the same action which it has taken against Iran, such as sanctioning all banks (that traded with Iran) against Moscow as well. However, Russia, immediately after the passage of three months and changing monetary and financial policies and removing the dollar, not only protected its economy, but also showed the strength of its economy to the Americans. But in Iran, unfortunately, despite having oil, gas and huge resources that are considered as the manifestation of economic power in the world..., the thinking of monetary and financial officials is focused on America and they are afraid of eliminating the dollar from the economy. We should learn from other countries and cut our connection with the dollar.

Arman-e-Emrooz: The key of Baku's behavior is in Tel Aviv

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed Baku's approach towards Iran and how Tehran faced it. The writer said: The key of all Baku's behaviors is in Tel Aviv. At times when differences arise between countries, dialogue can play a valuable role and solve problems. It seems that this anti-diplomatic approach of Ilham Aliyev, the leader of the Baku government, has aggravated the differences, which is ultimately not in their favor. We hope that the Baku government will not play in the field of Westerners and Israel and won't give the opportunity to destroy its relations with Iran to the Zionist regime and elements opposed to relations between Iran and Baku. Of course, Iran has the right to take countermeasures against the actions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and expel their diplomats in their consulate in Tabriz and those in Tehran. In my opinion, the restoration of relations between Iran and Azerbaijan does not require mediation. But Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan can still negotiate and resolve their problems without mediation. If Aliyev acts wisely and not influenced by the Zionist regime, he can negotiate with the Islamic Republic of Iran and iron out the existing disagreements and restore relations. The approach of Iran is different with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and Iran had much more discords with these countries than the Republic of Baku, but today we see that our embassies (in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh) will be opened after solving the problems. Therefore, we can adopt this approach towards the Republic of Azerbaijan, provided that they also try to make decisions as an independent country and do not play on the ground of the Zionist regime and do not seek to block diplomatic communications.

Israel too tiny to pose threats: Iran army chief



from page 1 ► The Army chief said, "The Zionist regime is too tiny to be regarded as a danger to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is floundering and its signs of breakdown have become more apparent than ever."

He also cautioned the Zionist officials that their rash and unwise actions would only hasten

the demise of the Israeli regime.

"Anyone with a rudimentary understanding of the two sides' military capabilities would recognize that the Zionist regime's power may be similar in size to the upgraded scale of one of Iran's numerous military operations during the eight years of war in the 1980s," the general concluded.

Caucasus tensions are to no country's advantage, Iran's security chief says

from page 1 ► "Any geographical change in the South Caucasus region is a tension-building measure, which will play into the hands of the enemies of regional security and stability," Shamkhani noted in a meeting with Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan.

The senior security official of Iran underlined that any "hard approach" to resolving regional issues must be replaced with dialogue and collaboration.

His comments were made against the backdrop of long-standing hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

Shamkhani noted the Caucasus region is going through a delicate time, expressing optimism that Azerbaijan and Armenia will be able to resolve the current difficulties with patience and wisdom.

The top security official also said the principal goal of the sitting Iranian government is engagement and collaboration and engagement with neighbors.

Armenia's senior security official also said Iran played an "important role" in fostering relations between South Caucasus nations and preserving regional stability.

Grigoryan praised Iran's "very effective" role in achieving regional peace and stability, highlighting that cooperation and communication among nations are the only means of addressing the current issues in the region and averting additional unrest and clashes.

De-dollarization will dwindle Western economic domination: top security chief

Shamkhani also held talk on Sun-



Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), met on Sunday with Igor Levitin, the secretary of the Russian State Council and a key adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

day with Igor Levitin, the secretary of the Russian State Council and a key adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At the meeting, Iran's top security official said the moves around the world to decrease the role of dollar in their international trade will break the hegemony of dollar.

The effort to decrease the use of the dollar in regional and international transactions, which has the support of various nations, will lessen Western domination over the global economy, he noted.

Brazil and China as two economic powerhouses struck a deal in March to ditch the U.S. dollar in favor of their own currencies in trade transactions.

Shamkhani also said the agreements reached between Iran and Russia in the area of financial and

banking exchanges intended to finance joint projects serve as an "effective" model for countering the illegal sanctions imposed by the West against the two nations.

The SNSC secretary applauded efforts to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation and emphasized the urgency of moving quickly to complete cooperative initiatives.

He said that strengthening transit cooperation between the two nations and completing the North-South Corridor are significant components of the joint projects.

Shamkhani added that the two nations' unwavering efforts would eliminate any barriers to the swift realization of this strategic project, which would be crucial in altering the geometry of the movement of goods in the region.

For his part, Levitin stated that Russia is prepared to participate in a number of Iranian economic sectors, including steel, oil, and petrochemical industries, underlining the need to swiftly undertake collaborative projects, notably in the transit sector.

The Russian official added that in addition to the significant actions taken to advance bilateral economic cooperation, appropriate grounds have been set up to conclude a multilateral economic agreement and motivate other nations in the region to take part in successful economic projects.

In the midst of negotiations between the two nations to acquire the funds required to complete the vital North-South transportation link, Levitin traveled to a railway project in northern Iran during his most recent visit to Iran in January.

Israel embroiled in own problems in occupied territories: Iran

Foreign Ministry says Tehran, Riyadh to exchange ambassadors soon

from page 1 ► A group from Iran will also pay a visit to Saudi Arabia in the coming days, he said, to lay the groundwork for the reopening of the embassy in Riyadh, as well as the general consulate and the mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah.

The moves to reopen embassies in Riyadh and Tehran follow a Chinese-brokered agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March and ensuing meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Beijing in early April.

Iran supports political efforts to end war in Yemen

In response to recent diplomatic efforts to put an end to Saudi Arabia's assault on Yemen, Kanaani stated that Iran is in favor of extending a cease-fire that would allow the siege on the impoverished nation to be lifted and humanitarian help to be delivered to its citizens.

"It is up to the Yemeni people to decide their country's fate and nobody has the authority to decide Yemen's fate in place of Yemenis," he added.

Kanaani went on to highlight that Iran is still active in the process of initiatives proposed by Oman for peace in Yemen and has always played a good role in this respect.

World order shifting in favor of resistance against hegemonies: Raisi

from page 1 ► For his part, Asad referred to 40 years of fight by Iran and Syria against common foes and said, "Today, the signs of collapse in the Zionist society have been revealed, which is the result of the resistance and especially the standing of the Palestinian nation."

Tensions have been high in the occupied territories since last week when dozens of heavily armed Israeli forces stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Then, before detaining the worshippers, Israeli police pummeled them with batons and riot arms, inflicting several injuries.

The armed forces of the Tel Aviv regime launched a second assault against the Palestinian worshippers at the complex of al-Aqsa Mosque in less than 24 hours.

More than 30 rockets were launched on Thursday from south-



ern Lebanon towards the occupied territories in retaliation for Israeli attacks on al-Aqsa. The occupying regime also targeted Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon and Gaza.

Iran calls for formation of united Muslim front against Israel

In yet another phone call with his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Sunday, Raisi underscored on the necessity for the Islamic Ummah to unify in opposition to the Zionist regime and support Palestinians unwaveringly.

Additionally, he wished him and the nation's revolutionary people a happy Ramadan.

Raisi highlighted that "Iran and Algeria have close, shared positions on regional and international issues, particularly the issue of Palestine and the rights of the country's oppressed people."

He regretted that the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people have recently increased.

Today, it is more important than ever to form a "united front of Islamic countries" against the

the Palestinian cause.

The spokesman also predicted that both Muslim and non-Muslim nations would stand up to the Zionist regime and support the oppressed Palestinian people.

He added the Iranian people will participate in International Quds Day this coming Friday and once again demonstrate their sympathy for the Palestinians.

"Iran-Iraq relationship"

In regards to the ties between Iran and Iraq, he stated that the Islamic Republic has consistently worked to strengthen peace, serenity, and security in the neighboring state and has been instrumental in the battle against terrorism in the Arab nation.

He added that building a railway between the two nations will protect the interests of both parties and that construction on the Shalamche-Basra railway can be completed in about 1.5 years.

Regarding diplomatic ties with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, he stated that an Iranian delegation had been sent to Manama and that relations between the UAE and Iran are improving, especially following the return of Abu Dhabi's ambassador to Tehran.

Zionist regime, the president suggested.

Raisi also expressed happiness with the two nations' expanding ties and expressed optimism that Tehran and Algiers' collaboration, particularly in the business and economic sectors, will continue to advance.

For his part, President Tebboune wished the Iranian president and people a happy Ramadan and remarked, "The oppressed people of Palestine are suffering under the brutality of the Zionist regime during the holy month of Ramadan, and I pray that with the cooperation of Islamic nations, we can free the Palestinian nation from the Zionists' oppression."

The need for taking practical initiatives based on the roadmap for the advancement of mutual cooperation was again stressed by the two presidents.

Iranians overwhelmingly oppose America

Gallup reveals the truth about Iranians' view of U.S.

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – A recent poll by an American polling company revealed that U.S. standing in the Muslim world has deteriorated to a new level, with Iranians standing out among other Muslim nations as distrusting it the most.

The Gallup polling company published the result of its poll on April 7 on the eve of the anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq twenty years ago, which Washington justified on democratization grounds. While the U.S. has long been portraying itself as an advocate for democracy, especially in war-torn Iraq, Iraqis, and residents of 12 other Muslim-majority nations do not view the U.S. as serious about encouraging the development of democracy in the region, nor allowing people to fashion their own political future as they see fit, according to the Gallup poll.

The poll, conducted in 2022 in 13 Muslim countries, centers on how Muslims in these countries view U.S. commitments to democracy, self-determination, and economic improvement. An overwhelming majority of respondents called into question U.S. commitments to



the three categories.

And in all the categories, Iranians stand atop in terms of distrusting the United States. Only 9% percent of Iranian respondents said they trust the U.S. commitment to democracy while 81% of them said the U.S. is not serious about democracy.

Iranians' perception of U.S. commitment to self-determination is similar to that of democracy with 80% of Iranians saying that the U.S. will not allow them to fashion their own political future.

Lastly, 82% of Iranian respondents said the U.S. is not

serious about improving their economic lot.

The result of the Gallup poll stands in stark contrast to what the U.S. promulgated against Iran. The U.S. media has long been portraying Iranians as embracing pro-Western values and opinions. Even more so, they have been spreading allegations of a schism between the state and society in Iran.

This has been on full display during the months-long wave of protests that gripped Iran in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini. The U.S. and its allies went so

far as to publicly advocate regime change in Iran on account of the alleged crackdown on protesters.

But the Gallup poll showed the opposite. It confirmed that the Iranian people overwhelmingly oppose the policies of the United States as do their peers in other Muslim countries. At the end of the day, the U.S. has not been fair to the Muslim world.

Pundits believe that Iranians from all walks of life may well be discontent with their economic lot, but they know that their hardships are mainly due to U.S. sanctions, which have done so much damage to the lives of Iranians.

And U.S. reputation among other Muslim countries is not enviable. Just over one in four Iraqis surveyed in 2022 agreed with the statement that the U.S. is serious about encouraging the establishment of democratic systems in their region, according to Gallup. In Afghanistan, a nation invaded two years before Iraq for different reasons but where promoting democracy was also a key U.S. stated aim, 14% agreed that the U.S. was serious about it.

Iranian delegation due in Saudi Arabia for talks on reopening embassy



From Page 1 ► “It is anticipated that this delegation will travel to Saudi Arabia later this week,” Enayati said, according to IRNA.

He added, “The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be deployed in the form of two separate delegations, one in Jeddah and the other in Riyadh, to take the necessary measures to restore the situation and prepare for the reopening of the Iranian embassy and consulate in Saudi Arabia.”

Enayati, who had participated in the talks in China that led to the signing of the March 10 agreement between Tehran and Riyadh, said, “In the air transport agreement between the two parties, it is emphasized that the technical

delegations should discuss with each other to activate this agreement.”

He noted, “Based on this, it has been decided to resume flights to and from Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

Tasnim reported that the Iranian delegation will probably be dispatched to Saudi Arabia on April 11.

The visit comes against a backdrop of accelerated rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran.

A Saudi Arabian delegation has visited Tehran to discuss procedures for reopening the Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran in line with a March 10 agreement between Tehran and Riyadh.

The arrival of the Saudi delegation came “in the implementation of the joint tripartite agreement between Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the People's Republic of China, and in the completion of what was agreed upon by the two sides during the talks session between the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, and Iranian Minister of For-

eign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian, which took place in Beijing, on April 6, 2023,” according to the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The delegation, headed by Nasser bin Awad Al-Ghanoum, met with the Chief of Protocol at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Honardust, at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Tehran.

During the meeting, Al-Ghanoum expressed his thanks to the Chief of Protocol for the warm welcome the team received, while Honardust expressed his country's readiness to provide all facilities and support to facilitate the mission of the Saudi team.

Iran and Saudi Arabia signed a Chinese-brokered deal on March 10 to restore their diplomatic ties. The foreign ministers of the two countries have recently met in Beijing in line with this agreement.

The bilateral meeting and talks between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia were held in a very positive and constructive atmosphere in Beijing, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Restoration of Tehran-Riyadh ties will benefit Muslim world: MP

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has hailed the restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, describing the move as beneficial to the Muslim world.

The lawmaker, Jalil Rahimi Jahan Abadi, who is a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said in remarks to IRNA that differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been a result of U.S. sowing discord among the two countries.

“Revival of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is in the interest of the Islamic world, the Middle East [West Asia] and the

two countries, and can contribute to the development of peace and stability in the region,” Rahimi Jahan Abadi said.

Underlining that 67% of the world energy supplies come from the West Asia region, the lawmaker said, “All the great powers seek influence in this region, and the Americans tried to increase their and the Zionist regime's influence in the region through discord, and for this reason, there were ups and downs in the relations between these two great Islamic countries.”

He added, “The improvement

of relations between Tehran and Riyadh will remove the dark atmosphere of Iran-phobia and can provide the opportunity for investment, growth and economic development for both countries. Instead of dealing with military tensions, it can create more time for the parties to cooperate.”

The lawmaker said that if deep economic ties are formed between Iran and Saudi Arabia to serve their common interests, the two Muslim countries could enjoy a friendship that cannot be affected by religious or political tensions.

Rahimi Jahan Abadi said, “The

improvement of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be strengthened in the light of joint investment and the deep economic ties between the two countries. If this bond is defined in the Persian Gulf area, which is the common interest of the two countries, Tehran and Riyadh will achieve stable friendship and tensions will be reduced. Political and religious cannot affect these relations.”

He also pointed to the Chinese mediation between Tehran and Riyadh, underlining that China seeks to play a pivotal role in the world and Asia.

Referring to the agreement between Iran and Iraq to speed up the construction of the Basra-Shalamchah railway line, which had remained undecided for many years, Ayatollah Raisi emphasized the need to pursue this plan as well as Iran's agreements with Russia and China until the result is achieved.”

Referring to the receipt of news and reports regarding some items, He considered the Market Regulation Headquarters and the Consumer Protection Organization as the only legal authorities to change the price of these goods and mandated the related supervisory and executive bodies to deal with the violations in this field.

In this meeting, Ayatollah Raisi offered condolences on the days of martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), and invited everyone to take advantage of the blessings of the al-Qadr Night, and said, “The al-Qadr Night is the best opportunity for self-improvement and bringing the servants closer to God”.



clear Technology, President Raisi described the treatment of more than one million patients through nuclear knowledge in the country, as well as the achievement of more than 150 scientific and technical achievements by Iranian scientists in the nuclear industry, especially in the conditions of sanctions and obstructions of the enemy, as a proof of Iranian dignity and pride.

He stated, “The Popular Administration considers itself obliged to support these great achievements”.

SPORTS

Women need support for Olympic Ghanbari

TEHRAN – Women's football team captain Zahra Ghanbari says that the officials of Iran football federation must support them in the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Paris 2024 Asian Qualifiers Round 2.

Iran finished top of Group B with a 2-1 win over Myanmar on aggregate.

“We did a great job because Myanmar are a strong team and they played on their home soil. The Myanmar team were the better team, physically,” Ghanbari said.

“We traveled to Myanmar while the players were not in their best form but they did a great job in my opinion,” she added.

“The Round 2 will be tougher and the team need support ahead of the competition. I think Team Melli must play several friendly matches as part of preparation for the competition,” Ghanbari said.

“Many people did not think that we would advance from Round 1 and predicted that we would lose. But we did a great job and we made a great event. If we try hard in the Round 2, nothing is out of reach,” Team Melli captain concluded.

Carlos Hernandez Inarejos named Nassaji coach

TEHRAN – Spanish coach Carlos Hernandez Inarejos took charge of Iranian football club Nassaji.

He replaced Hamid Motahari, who was sacked following the poor results, in the Ghaemshahr based team

Inarejos started his coaching career in 2011 as head coach of Alicante youth team. The 39-year-old coach has also coached Al Hilal and Al Ahli (Qatar) youth teams.

He has most recently worked at Saudi Arabian club Al Arabi coaching staff.

Inarejos has penned an 18-month deal with Nassaji.

Nassaji are 12th in Iran Professional League (IPL) table, eight points above relegation zone.

They will be one of Iran's representatives in the 2023/24 AFC Champions League.

Safaa Hadi extends deal with Tractor: IPL

TEHRAN – Iraq international midfielder Safaa Hadi penned a one-year extension with Tractor football club.

The 24-year-old player joined the Iranian side in June 2022 on a one-year contract.

He has played a pivotal role in the Tabriz-based club in the current season.

Hadi has said several Iranian clubs have been interested in signing him but he has opted to extend his deal with Tractor.

Iran to host IFBB C'ship for students

TEHRAN – Iran was officially chosen as the host of the first World Student Bodybuilding Championship, a statement by International Federation of BodyBuilding and Fitness (IFBB) said.

After the meeting of the head of Iran's Bodybuilding Federation, Abdolmahdi Nasirzadeh, with Rafael Santonja, the head of the IFBB, on the sidelines of the UAE international competition, Iran was officially picked as the host of the first Bodybuilding Championship for World students in 2023.

In the meeting, the two sides signed the memorandum of understanding for Iran's hosting of this event.

Iran's proposed the date to hold this event is October 2023, and after the approval of IFBB, the place and time of these competitions will be officially announced.

Sarkhosh qualifies for WCBS Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's acclaimed snooker player Amir Sarkhosh has reportedly booked the ticket for the first edition of WCBS Championship.

The competitions are slated for July 17-23 in Ankara, Turkey.

Sarkhosh has been picked by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) to attend the event.

The competitions are held in a group form with the presence of eight teams from various continents (two teams from Asia, two others from Europe, one from the America, one from Africa, one from Oceania, and a selected team of the world).

The teams will compete each other for four days and the two teams that receive the highest points advance to the final stage.

Spanish media lauds Iran forward Taremi

The Spanish daily Diario AS has praised the performance of Iran's footballer Mehdi Taremi who plays for FC Porto.

FC Porto football team gained a 2-1 victory over Benfica in the Primeira Liga as the Iranian striker Taremi scored the second goal for his Portuguese club in the 53rd minute.

The Spanish Newspaper praised the Iranian athlete, terming him an influential player on the football pitch.

The Iranian striker is one of Porto's most prominent players this season, scoring 14 goals in the Portuguese league so far, the source added.

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

Ghalenoei rejects rumors over Azmoun

TEHRAN – Head coach of Iran's national football team has rejected rumors over Sardar Azmoun's request to have a single room in the team camps.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Amir Ghalenoei said the issue has not been raised.

“Sardar was my player and is a good striker,” he said referring to the time when he coached Sardar in Sepahan.

“We talked for 10 minutes after the [friendly] game with Russia and these issues were not raised,” said the coach, pointing to a phone conversation between himself and Sardar that was made after reports suggest a division between the two as the striker was absent from the camp.

“I was a friend of Sardar's father before he became my player,” Ghalenoei said.

“I don't know whether Sardar had a single room in the past,” he said, noting that there are principles in place that the team will stick to.

The remarks come as the 28-year-old striker has dismissed rumors of having problems with Ghalenoei. In an interview in late March, he said “personal issues” were behind his absence from the recent camp of Team Melli.

“I came to Gonbad [a city in Golestan Province] to do some affairs about my military services,” he said.

Team Melli are making preparations for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup in Qatar.

Locadia joins Cangzhou

TEHRAN – Former Persepolis football club Jurgen Locadia signed for Chinese club Cangzhou Mighty Lions on Monday.

The 29-year-old Dutch attacker terminated his contract with Iran's Persepolis in December 2022.

Locadia was the best goalscorer of Persepolis and his departure caused some difficulties for the Reds.

Cangzhou Mighty Lions Football Club are a professional football club that currently participates in the Chinese Super League under license from the Chinese Football Association (CFA).

Flowers, ornamental plants worth \$19.5m exported from Mahallat in 9 months



TEHRAN- Flowers and ornamental plants valued at \$19.5 million were exported from Mahallat county, in Iran's central Markazi province, during the first nine months of the past Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), Mohammad-Jamal Abbasi, the head of the country's Industry, Mining, and Trade Department, announced.

Markazi province is ranked first in the country in terms of producing variable flowers and ornamental plants.

This province has second place in the production of cut flowers, and third place in the production of flowers and ornamental plants.

Despite being industrial, Markazi is among the first 10 provinces in the country in the agricultural sector.

Iran has 17th place in the world in the production of flowers and ornamental plants, but it is ranked 107th in terms of export.

Considering the high potential and volume of import of flowers and ornamental plants by the Persian Gulf littoral states and Central Asian countries, in order to increase the share of Iran in the world markets, it is necessary to adopt effective and targeted policies in order to solve the problems in the way of production and export of flowers and ornamental plants.

As reported, it is possible for Iran to export more than one billion dollars of flowers and ornamental plants per year, and the officials of the Agriculture Ministry also emphasize the export capabilities of the country's flower and ornamental plant sector.

Although, the producers of this sector have problems and limitations, most of which are related to the ministries of energy and industry, which should be removed through adopting effective and targeted policies.

Annual gas consumption rises 6%

TEHRAN- Gas consumption by domestic and commercial sectors in Iran increased by six percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the head of the state-run National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Dispatching Department announced.

Mohammad-Reza Joulaei said that the increase in gas consumption in the domestic sector causes restrictions in other sectors, including major industries, power plants and petrochemical feed at the peak time.

Back in January, the head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Energy Committee warned about the serious imbalance between the country's natural gas production and consumption in the future.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Reza Padidar emphasized that since South Pars gas field currently accounts for 70 percent of the country's natural gas production, the current trend of consumption and the lack of investment in this field will lead to a severe imbalance between supply and demand in the coming years.

As the TCCIMA portal reported, Iran is currently the third gas-producing country in the world and the second country in terms of natural gas reserves, however, according to official data gas consumption in Iran is also twice as much as in the European Union.

According to Padidar, more than 80 percent of the 870 million cubic meters of gas produced in the country is used by the domestic and commercial sectors during the cold season.

He noted that most of the above-mentioned consumption is accounted for by high-consuming households that use four to five times more gas than regular consumers.

Stating that the best policy in dealing with such subscribers is to use price reform mechanisms, Padidar said: "An effective tiered pricing policy for high-consuming subscribers is precisely the model that will lead these



people to modify their consumption patterns."

He further expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of investment in the country's gas fields, saying: "If investments were made [in the country's fields] according to economic forecasts and plans, of course, the country's oil and gas production would increase significantly and energy exports would also take a more appropriate path. In this context, it should be said that the lack of investments has caused the production of energy carriers, especially natural gas, to be far from what is expected."

South Pars field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

The average daily production of natural gas in Iran's South Pars gas field currently stands at 700 million cubic meters, according to Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) which is in charge of developing the field.

TEDPIX loses 22,000 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 22,332 points to 2.19 million on Monday.

As reported, over 22.874 billion securities worth 158.151 trillion rials (about \$376.55 million) were traded at the TSE.

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

Investment making rising in Chabahar Free Zone

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- In this century, transit and routes for transporting goods and passengers are extremely important. One of the ways that countries can increase their economic and political power and consequently their national power at a lower cost is the optimal use of the strategic position.

The location of a country next to the open sea, oceans, important straits, etc. can provide that country with capacities that, if properly planned and used, while creating economic prosperity, can compensate for many of the country's deficiencies in other areas.

Iran's strategic position has made it able to play a role as an important transit route in the transit of goods in the east-west and north-south routes.

This issue causes countries without access to open waters, including Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, to depend on Iran more than before.

The transit of goods from Iran through rail and road transport and then sea transport through the port of Chabahar plays an important role in attracting investment, developing industry and creating employment, especially in the eastern regions of the country.



Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran, so the government has some major projects to create multi-dimensional transportation facilities in this port.

As announced by the managing director of Chabahar Free Zone Organization, \$8 billion of

investment was made in different sectors in this zone during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Amir Moqadam said that the result of the actions taken in the field of investment attraction last year was that the total investments made reached from \$4.9 billion at the end of 1400 to \$8 billion at the end of 1401, and for 1402 it is targeted to reach \$14 billion.

Chabahar port has two significant docks, namely Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari, which are mostly referred to as

ports, i.e. Shahid Beheshti Port and Shahid Kalantari Port.

Development of Shahid Beheshti Port, construction of Chabahar International Airport, and building Chabahar-Zahedan (center of Sistan-Baluchestan Province) railway are three of the major projects to make Chabahar a complete logistics platform.

In addition, Chabahar Free Zone has been suggested as a transit and logistic gateway for Iran's domestic market which, while reducing the cost and time of transportation it has also provided profitable economic opportunities in the development of logistics facilities.

Chabahar Free Zone is a multi-purpose zone with educational, industrial, tourism and transportation sectors.

Considering all the above-mentioned points, making investment in this zone is a necessity.

It is worth mentioning that one of the major potentials of Chabahar free zone, which makes investment in this area very profitable, is the existence of cheap workforce in all fields, especially in the field of industries.

This has caused this area to have a high potential for establishing factories and industrial units.

Over 9.3m tons of goods transited via Iranian roads in a year

From page 1 ▶ "Last year, despite the improvement of international transportation conditions after the coronavirus pandemic and the removal of most of the relative global and regional restrictions caused by the pandemic, due to some regional and international challenges, achieving the goals set in the field of transit faced difficulties. However, the four percent growth of transit truck traffic in a situation where most countries were facing an employment crisis in the field of international transportation, shows the importance of Iran's transit route compared to other alternative routes in the region to access markets from east to west and north to south and vice versa", the official further explained.

According to the fundamental approach of the 13th government based on political and commercial integration with neighboring countries, and the pursuit of the government's active regional diplomacy in the form of regional economic agreements such as those with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), it is definitely possible to achieve the goal of transiting 20 million tons of goods through Iran in this Iranian year through the cooperation and empathy of all cooperating institutions in the governmental and private sectors, Amani commented.

As previously announced by the Iranian deputy transport minister, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year.

Shahriyar Afandizadeh also announced that Iran registered a new record high with the transit of 8.3 million tons of non-oil goods

in 1401, adding that 2.5 million tons of oil products were also transited via the country in the previous year.

"Considering the transit of 7.5 million tons of non-oil goods in 1400, we have seen a 10.7-percent growth in the transit of this type of goods in 1401 compared to the previous year", the official said.

"In 1401, we witnessed important developments and achievements in the strategic and operational areas of the country's transit, whose definitive effects will be seen gradually and steadily on the growth of transit from the country in 1402 and the coming years", the deputy transport minister further highlighted.

Afandizadeh then explained: "In line with the activation and development of the North-South International Transport Corridor, in a tripartite meeting in last September between the high-ranking officials of our country and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, while aiming to achieve the transit of 15 million tons of goods through this corridor by 2030, agreements were reached in the field of strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in joint investment and financing, the completion and development of key infrastructures and their exploitation, especially the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway line, facilitating cross-border traffic of goods and increasing the quality and quantity of this traffic", adding that the implementation of these agreements is being followed up.

He went on to say, "One of the most important events last year was Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In a short period of time after



the meeting of the heads of Shanghai in September 1401 in Samarkand, the first six-party meeting of the transport ministers of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, in addition to Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Tehran in October 1401 with the goal of achieving 20-million tons of annual transit between Iran and Central Asian countries, as an area with a very high role and importance in east-west and north-south transit, especially after the recent regional and international developments, which was approved by the members."

This year, the issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization, and Eurasian Economic Union is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extra-regional target countries, the deputy transport minister noted.

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

Annual TV manufacturing up 25%



The official also announced that the export of home appliances from Iran rose 24 percent in the past year.

He said cooling and heating appliances including evaporative coolers, heaters, and water heaters with a growth of 30 percent, accounted for the lion's share of the export in the previous year.

"With 30 million dollars value of export, we had also a growth of 82 percent in the export of refrigerators and freezers in the past year", he added.

The home appliance industry is

one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past year, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

Shokrollahi said: "Despite the problems, 1401 was a busy year in terms of increasing production, and we were witnessing good growth in various items of household appliances."

The official announced that about 600 home appliance production units are active in the country.

"The home appliance industry is a growing industry and this industry is developing

by launching new production lines, for example, last year we launched 27 new production lines, including 10 refrigerator production lines, six microwave and small household appliances production lines, four washing machine production lines, three dishwasher production lines, and one TV production line", he added.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past six years.

International Quds Day: Israel in fear

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- This year's event comes as the Israeli regime is facing challenges from within, the resistance and abroad.

International Quds Day is a global event where mass anti-Israel protests take place around the world. The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini, initiated the day of solidarity with Palestine on the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Israel is witnessing growing resistance against its colonialism, most significantly over the past year, from the occupied West Bank.

Gone are the days when Israeli troops enjoyed the freedom to raid West Bank towns and villages to ethnically cleanse the Palestinians residing there.

Today, newly formed armed resistance factions by the West Bank youth have changed the equation and are taking the battle to Israel's occupation troops.

They are conducting armed retaliatory operations against the regime's occupation including at its many military checkpoints scattered across the West Bank. Those retaliatory operations have struck the heart of the occupied territories, Tel Aviv.

They are also refusing to surrender to the regime's almost daily pre-dawn invasion of Palestinian towns and villages. Instead, these youths are confronting special forces in armed clashes, battles that usually last several hours.

Their refusal to surrender explains the high Palestinian death toll. Israeli forces have murdered around 100 Palestinians so far this year.

It's no wonder Israel plans to set up a "National Guard" (in what critics have been described as a settler militia) to handle the West Bank resistance.

"A picture that speaks a thousand words"

That's how Israeli media described a photo published on April 9, 2023 of a meeting between the Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah and Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas political bureau.

The two leaders met in Beirut on Saturday to discuss "the readiness of the axis of resistance" and to further expand their cooperation in light of Israel's terrorism these days at al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

The meeting between Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Hamas movement in the



besieged Gaza Strip to expand and improve cooperation will be seen as a major concern among the security apparatus of the Zionist entity.

The salvo of missiles fired from Palestinian refugee camps in Southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip in response to Israel's desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque (Islam's third holiest site) indicated one key element:

The regime responded by striking farmland in Lebanon and airstrikes in the Gaza Strip for one night. In both attacks it was careful not to kill anybody as it cannot afford a wider conflict with the Palestinian resistance.

It also cannot embark on a war with Hezbollah as it knows very well the powerful resistance movement has weapons that can strike deep inside all occupied territories, including precision missiles that can hit very sensitive sites, including Israel's Dimona nuclear weapons plant.

The same can be said about the Gaza Strip. Israel cannot afford a conflict with the Palestinian resistance in the blockaded coastal enclave as the resistance has missiles in its hands that can hit vital Israeli infrastructure and humiliate the regime.

With the power of the resistance in Lebanon and Gaza significantly growing, Israel can't even wage a war to divert attention from the crisis the entity is witnessing from within.

There have been mass protests by Israelis against their new coalition's plans to overhaul the regime's so-called judicial system.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets and clashed with forces in protest against the proposed measures by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultra-orthodox and fascist cabinet.

Such is the extent of the fighting within Israel and warnings by the regime's President and other officials of a "civil war", Netanyahu's cabinet was forced to postpone the plans for a month.

But as the English say, he is stuck between a rock and a hard place.

If Netanyahu drops his overhaul plans, he could end up in prison for corruption charges as well as members of his fragile coalition withdrawing, which would mean an end to his majority in the Israeli Knesset.

That would result in another record fifth election in less than five years. There has never been so much internal division within the entity's 75 years of occupation of Palestine. Nevertheless, Netanyahu needs to keep his cabinet at any cost. This explains the vicious storming into al-Aqsa Mosque and committing terror on innocent worshipers in a desperate bid to appease the settlers.

If there is anything that brings a smile on the settler's faces, it is footage of the occupation troops mercilessly attacking women and men inside al-Aqsa Mosque. But again, this comes with its ramifications that Israel will face in the near future.

So much is the division over Netanyahu's overhaul plans of the judiciary that even segments in nearly all of the regime's military armed forces and units withdrew from crucial training, which Israeli military officials, in turn, said poses a direct threat to the existence of the occupation.

In another major setback for Israel, its staunchest supporter, the United States has lost its clout in West Asia as witnessed by the recent detente between Iran and Saudi Arabia as well as the steady restoration of ties between Syria

and the Arab world.

In a sign of how developments are quickly changing in West Asia, a Saudi delegation travelled to the Yemeni capital Sana'a for talks with the head of the popular Ansarullah revolution, not the other way round.

This was not the case two decades ago, when Washington had major influence on the region. That influence is now shifting to the countries in West Asia itself.

Alongside that, such is the fascist language being publicly broadcast by the minister in Netanyahu's cabinet, that it has forced the U.S. to end its decades long protocol of inviting a new Israel's Prime Minister to the White House within two or three months.

Netanyahu, who assumed power again in January is still waiting for an invitation to hold talks with President Joe Biden. And he may have to wait longer.

On March 28, when Biden stressed he is not going to invite the Israeli prime minister to Washington "in the near term", Netanyahu publicly hit back at the U.S. President, underscoring the tense relationship between the current White House and the Israeli occupation.

However, it all goes back to the indigenous people of the land.

On Sunday Syrian President Bashar al-Assad pointed out that the Palestinian nation's perseverance has pushed the occupying regime to the brink of collapse.

Israel has never been in a fragile state (pardon the pun) as it is now, facing so many crises from within and from the developments in the region as well as the international community as it continues to pursue its extremely racist agenda.

In addition, the presence of an openly racist regime in Tel Aviv has a clear political function. All Zionists benefit from oppression against Palestinians, although some more than others, and the existence of extremist positions contributes to perpetuating such extremist violence.

The so-called "progressive Zionists" may believe that they have nothing to do with the racist regime of Netanyahu and that they would never say things like "Palestinians don't exist," as the regime's current finance minister Bezalel Smotrich did.

However, the clear function of Netanyahu and his regime is to aid and abet daily violence against Palestinians and their constant oppression and racialization to remain invisible to most Zionists.

"Progressive Zionists" can continue to believe in the myth of an endangered "democracy" without having to think about Palestinians and, even more importantly, without having to question their own privileges. These privileges are sustained through the oppression of others.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 11, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

5

WORLD HEADLINES

US eavesdropping on key allies, including S. Korea, Israel, and Ukraine., Leaked docs says

Highly classified Pentagon documents leaked online in recent weeks have provided a rare window into how the US spies on allies and foes alike, deeply rattling US officials, who fear the revelations could jeopardize sensitive sources and compromise important foreign relationships.

Some of the documents, which US officials say are authentic, expose the extent of US eavesdropping on key allies, including South Korea, Israel, and Ukraine.

Others reveal the degree to which the US has penetrated the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Russian mercenary organization Wagner Group, largely through intercepted communications and human sources, which could now be cut off or put in danger.

Still, others divulge key weaknesses in Ukrainian weaponry, air defense, and battalion sizes and readiness at a critical point in the war, as Ukrainian forces gear up to launch a counteroffensive against the Russians – and just as the US and Ukraine have begun to develop a more mutually trusting relationship over intelligence-sharing.

Ukraine has already altered some of its military plans because of the leak, a source close to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told CNN.

The Pentagon has stood up an "interagency effort" to assess the impact of the leak, Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh said Sunday.

Ukraine seeks visit by India's Modi

Ukraine's deputy foreign minister says Kyiv seeks a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top officials while adding that New Delhi should be more involved in resolving the war in Ukraine.

Emine Dzhaparova told broadcaster CNBC TV18 in an interview that it was expected India would invite Ukrainian officials to participate in G20 events in September while adding that New Delhi should intensify political dialogue with Kyiv.

Dzhaparova is on a four-day visit to New Delhi.

Brazil's Lula to meet Chinese counterpart and discuss Ukraine

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will meet Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing this week to discuss trade and war in Ukraine.

They "will talk about the war in

Ukraine," Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira told reporters, with Lula hoping to promote his proposal for mediated talks to end the war.

Lula is expected to arrive in China on Tuesday and meet Xi on Friday.

Macron says Europe must cut reliance on US dollar, seek 'strategic autonomy'

French President Emmanuel Macron has called on European countries to lower their dependence on the US dollar and resist pressure to become vassal states of Washington or get dragged into the China-US conflict over Taiwan.

Speaking to media persons on his plane back from a three-day state visit to China., Macron said Europe should reduce its dependence on the "extraterritoriality of the US dollar", a stance that is likely to raise eyebrows in Washington.

"If the tensions between the two superpowers heat up ... we won't have the time nor the resources to finance our strategic autonomy and we will become vassals," he warned, urging his fellow European leaders to become self-reliant.

He said "the great risk" Europe face is that it gets "caught up in crises that are not ours, which prevents it from building its strategic autonomy", urging European leaders to focus on staying out of a potential conflict between Washington and Beijing over Taiwan.

"The worst thing would be to think that we Europeans must be followers and adapt ourselves to the American rhythm and a Chinese overreaction," he told media, including French business daily Les Echos and Politico.

Teenager killed in Israeli military raid in West Bank

Israeli forces have killed a 16-year-old Palestinian teenager during a military raid on a refugee camp in the occupied eastern West Bank city of Ariha, as Israeli settlers have stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds in yet another provocative move against Palestinian worshipers.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that confrontations broke out soon after Israeli forces raided the Aqabat Jaber refugee camp on Monday morning, with dozens of armored vehicles and special forces, to arrest activists.

The report added that Israeli troops fired shots indiscriminately at local residents, hitting one in the head, chest and stomach. He later succumbed to his serious gunshot wounds. Two other Palestinians were struck in the lower parts of the body.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health later identified the victim as 15-year-old Mohammad Fayeze Balhan.

Local sources said the soldiers surrounded the camp from all sides before entering it to arrest activists.

The Israeli army and settlers killed 93 Palestinians so far this year, including 17 minors and one woman.



Activists rally in front of the Israeli occupation embassy in London in solidarity with Palestine.

Discover mausoleum of 12th-century Sufi theologian and poet



From Page 1 ► The interior walls are animated with shallow arched niches and covered entirely with painted geometric and floral motifs from the early fourteenth century.

The painted foundation inscription envelops the walls below the squinches and contains the date of construction.

There are other doorways centered on the northeast, southeast, and northwest walls that lead into the grand iwan, Old Mosque, and Saracha Khanqah, respectively.

The doorway on the qibla wall, which leads into the New Mosque, bears traces of plaster molding suggesting that it was a mihrab. Three of the doors feature carved woodwork from the fourteenth century.

The ensemble includes Saracha Khanqah and Fariwandi Madrasa which were built in the early fourteenth century to the northwest of the Dome Chamber.

The Old Mosque, built between 1320 and 1333 to

the southeast of the Dome Chamber, was largely destroyed by the early twentieth century.

Archnet says that photographs published by Ernst Diez in 1918 show carved stucco inscriptions framing the nave arcades and floral stucco carvings and painted arabesques in the arch soffits. Traces of tile mosaics were found in the Mihrab area.

Amir Jalal al-din Firuzshah, a Timurid, constructed the Firuzshah Madrasa and the mosque that is now known as the Gunbad-e Sabz (Green Dome).

The mosque and vestibule flank the northwest side of the shrine courtyard, which integrates the portal and façade of the former madrasa featuring tiled brickwork.

Timurid Amir Jalal al-din Firuzshah constructed the New Mosque neighboring the qibla walls of the Saracha Khanqah, Dome Chamber, and Old Mosque in 1442-43.

The rectangular courtyard of the New Mosque was originally flanked by arcades on all sides; the double-bay side arcades have not survived and are replaced by brick walls today.

The sanctuary is entered through a tall portal that is centered on the courtyard facade, and it is covered with a squinch-net vault that is exactly like Gunbad-e Sabz's. Simple black and yellow bands serve as decoration for the Mihrab niche and plastered interior. Eight doors leading to the auxiliary halls are located in the sanctuary.

Isfahan, Kufa municipalities ready to share expertise

TEHRAN – Isfahan Mayor Ali Ghasemzadeh said his municipality is ready to share expertise on various urban spheres with Kufa.

“For two reasons, we welcome such cooperation with open arms. First, as an example of good neighborliness, and second, we may gain from Kufa's development, as it is a destination for Iranian pilgrims and travelers,” Ghasemzadeh said on Saturday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Kufa Mayor Mohsen Adel Abbas, adding Isfahan citizens have always shown reverence for the land of Iraq, especially the city of Kufa, and this sense of belonging is rooted in their love for Imam Ali (AS), the first Shia Imam.



Ghasemzadeh, that Isfahan has maintained its historical and religious identity over time, yet the ancient city has been a pioneer in solving modern issues in terms of urban settings, IMNA reported on Saturday.

“Isfahan is one of the pioneering and distinctive cities in the nation when it comes to the implementation of construction projects and urban service areas like waste recycling and garbage collection.”

It is also one of the cleanest cities in Iran, if not the entire world, thanks to a unique garbage collection system, he explained.

Archaeological hill in western Iran to be demarcated

TEHRAN – New boundaries will be defined for an ancient hill in the city of Zagheh, western Lorestan province in the near future, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project aims at preserving and protecting the hill, which has been inscribed on the national heritage list, Ata Hassanpur explained on Monday.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes are noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian,



Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

TEHRAN –The representatives and ambassadors of member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) have been invited to attend an international festival dedicated to nomads and the nomadic lifestyle in the northwestern province of Ardabil in May.

As the festival coincides with the opening ceremony of the “Ardabil 2023” event, ambassadors from ECO member countries are invited to participate, the provincial tourism chief said on Sunday.

Visitors may experience the charm of the nomadic lifestyle at this festival that showcases the capabilities of the nomads of this region, Hassan Mohammadi Adib explained.

ECO has added the festival of nomads to its annual calendar, bringing the event to an international level in 2023.

It has been a tradition to hold the nomad festival every May accompanied by the Moghan plain nomads, and this year the event will be held internationally.

In 2019, Ardabil along with Sari, the capital of Mazandaran province, were selected as the cultural capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Last April, the tourism authorities of the province announced that



ECO ambassadors invited to Ardabil's nomad festival

they had developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also

home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

The province is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Activating tourism capacities in Hormozgan creates jobs for locals, expert says



TEHRAN – In order to create employment for locals in Hormozgan, it is necessary to activate the tourism capacities of the southern province, a tourism expert has said.

It is possible to solve part of the unemployment issue in the province by enhancing tourism capabilities, which leads to job creation for the local people, IRNA quoted Majid Hashemi as saying on Monday.

To this goal, the local capacity for expressing tourism ideas should be taken into account, he explained.

It is important, however, that tourism does not negatively affect other economic activities, he noted.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It

is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists through its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery on rocky shores, serene sunsets, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature lovers.

Research addresses crisis management at bazaar of Tabriz

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered bazaar of Tabriz in northwestern East Azarbaijan province has recently been the subject of the first phase of research on crisis management and its historical and cultural contexts.

Conducted by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism, as part of the project, strategies were discussed for protecting and preserving the bazaar from any unwanted accidents, an Iranian scholar said on Monday.

In order to ensure the safety of urban spaces and citizens, it is necessary to prevent accidents and life losses, and some urban spaces are more important than others in this regard, said Hossein Esmaeili, who presided over the project.

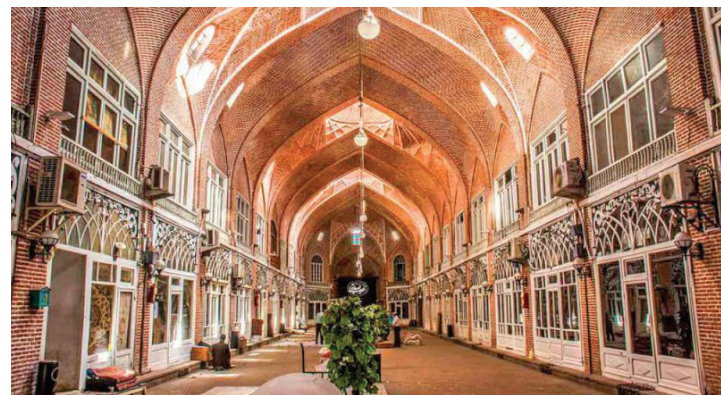
There are various types of strategic or administrative locations, public spaces, urban facilities, and historical monuments to consider, he added.

The historical bazaar of Tabriz is considered one of the most important spaces in this field, whose protection and preservation require the continuous efforts of people and officials, he noted.

Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he traveled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages.

A jumble of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about five kilometers, the bazaar has been a melting pot of cultural exchange since antiquity.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais, and inns, some 20 vast domed halls, bathhouses, and mosques, as well as other brick structures and enclosed spaces for different functions. Its history dates back over a millennium, however, the majority of fine brick vaults that



capture most visitors' eyes date from the 15th century.

Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

Heaven for nomadic people, Ardabil is home to some nomadic tent hotels, which are reportedly the first of their kind in the country.

The Islamic Republic seeks to boost ethnic tourism or tribe tourism in which holidaymakers may even stay with a nomadic family or enjoy an independent stay.

Many tourists from all over the world tend to observe the lifestyle of these hardworking people and spend a few days watching activities such as milking, yogurt making, buttering, oiling, woolen, carpeting, and much more.

The varied natural setting of the country never disappoints visitors when it comes to tribal tourism as the culturally diverse country is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews and others.

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

Piranshahr steps up efforts to revive traditional textiles

TEHRAN – The ancient city of Piranshahr has launched a special center for traditional textiles hoping to help safeguard skills passed down from generation to generation.

Moreover, the center, which is situated in West Azarbaijan province, is open to sightseers, researchers, travelers, and cultural heritage advocates, CHTN reported on Sunday.

So far, two workshops on regional handicrafts have been staged in the center, which has attracted 500 visitors since it was inaugurated earlier this year, the report said.



Based on available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and

Handicrafts, the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of 1401.

Compared with the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth. The Islamic Republic exported some \$320 million worth of handicrafts in 1400.

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.

From page 1 ► AI technologies are currently being used to develop natural language processing systems, speech recognition software, and translation tools.”

Although these advancements have the potential to revolutionize communication and interaction, there are concerns about the role of AI in shaping language and culture, he added.

Linguist Daniel Everett argues that language and culture exist in a symbiotic relationship, with each one shaping and affecting the other.

In this context, there are two distinct perspectives regarding the role of AI in language acquisition and understanding. Noam Chomsky, a renowned linguist, is skeptical of AI's ability to replicate human language and thought.

He argues that language is an innate capability of humans and that recent advancements in AI have no bearing on matters concerning language, thought, learning, or cognition.

On the other hand, Everett challenges Chomsky's argument about “innate principles of language,” citing ChatGPT as an example of how a language can be learned without any hard-wired principles of grammar.

Everett advocates for a revision of current theories of language learning to consider semiotics and inferential reasoning.

Overall, while AI and ML have the potential to bring significant advancements and benefits in various domains, their development and use require careful consideration of potential social, ethical, and cultural implications.

Ongoing debates and critiques underscore the importance of research and dialogue, and it is crucial to prioritize responsible development to ensure that these technologies are used to improve society and benefit all individuals.

Following is the text of the interview:

Let's begin by discussing the origins of language and their implications for language acquisition. When Chomsky and Everett discuss the origins of language, they present different perspectives. Inspired by Kant, Chomsky argues that language is an innate capability of the human brain, while Everett challenges this view by anthropological reasons, saying that language is more than just grammar and has social and cultural origins. Is there any evidence to support how human-kind developed this ability while other primates did not? Some believe that religion posits it as a divine gift from God, while scholars like Chomsky and Ray Jackendoff believe in mutation, and Everett highlights social interaction.

I think the origins of language is one of the big outstanding questions in science. We are certainly genetically different from even nearby primates like chim-



It is essential to consider AI impact on language and culture: American scientist

panzees in a way that allows us and not them to acquire and use language, but it is unclear what the exact difference is.

It could be very shallow, such as difference in overall ability to process and remember information, or it could be very deep, like innate biases towards certain kinds of rules that are required for language.

I tend to think it's more likely that there are general cognitive differences beyond language, because there are so many cognitive things that people do that other species seem incapable of, beyond language.

How do probabilistic models contribute to our understanding of language acquisition and processing, and how can this knowledge be applied in other areas of cognitive science? Additionally, what are the biggest challenges currently faced in the study of language evolution and cognition, and how does your research plan address them?

For a long time, many in linguistics, particularly those who worked in Chomsky's tradition, argued that it was logically impossible for statistical learning to acquire the core structures of language.

What large language models have shown recently is that isn't true -- that statistical learning can acquire all kinds of different structures, including probably those needed for syntax and semantics.

The question now is how much data it takes, because these statistical learning models currently take much more data than children.

How do you see the relationship between language structure and cultural evolution?

I think that the language and culture we have is the outcome of a long process of cultural evolution. The knowledge and representations in these models aren't created that way, although we can probably think of it as some fuzzy, coarse approximation to our own culture and language.

I think it's possible that cultural evolution has been one of the key features that enabled human intelligence, but it's not clear whether it will be important for these learning models.

What are the implications of large language models for genuine language theories, including representations of structure and connections to human learning, in large language models? How do these models relate to other approaches in linguistics, and what is their ability to answer “why” questions about the nature of language?

I argue, like many who worked on these models over the past few decades, that these models provide answers to “why” questions because they show how the required knowledge and representations can emerge from certain kinds of learning architectures.

Others try to answer “why” questions by positing specific innate representations, but I think that research program has not been very productive in terms of explaining or predicting a diversity of different forms that language can take.

Is AI a danger for humanity or just a threat to the interests of some people?

I think these models are potentially a threat, like any new technology, and so it's worth taking these kinds of concerns seriously.

I suspect that the main threat won't be as a threat to humanity, but more of a disruption to things like tests and essays we use in teaching. There is already a clear threat to humanity that we should be taking seriously, and which this kind of AI argument distracts from: climate change.

Large language models are especially vulnerable to abuse. What is your comment on ethical observations?

They are trained on text on the internet and therefore have internalized all kinds of biases that you find on the internet.

That means that they underlyingly “believe” some horrible things, and companies have to put filters on them so that this information doesn't come out to users. But it's still there, inside.

To me, this means that you would not want to trust these models for anything.

How can large language models be leveraged to improve language education for non-native speakers and individuals with language impairments?

I think there is a lot of potential there, but I am not an expert in this. Certainly, the technology in text-to-speech and speech-to-text has improved markedly in recent years, and I think that tools for improved grammar checking, maybe incorporating some semantic knowledge of analysis, will be very useful to people. But I couldn't predict where it's headed.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Water level in Lake Urmia rises by 33cm

The level of water in Lake Urmia, northwestern Iran, has increased by 33 centimeters compared to the same time last year, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program in West Azarbaijan province has said.

Currently, the volume of water of the lake is 1.920 billion cubic meters which experienced 250 million cubic meters increase compared to last year which was recorded at 1.250 bcm, ISNA quoted Farhad Sarkhosh as saying on Wednesday.

افزایش ۳۳ سانتی متری وسعت دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: سطح آب دریاچه ارومیه نسبت به مدت مشابه سال گذشته ۳۳ سانتی متر افزایش داشته است. فرهاد سرخوش روز چهارشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایسنا گفت: حجم آب فعلی موجود در دریاچه ارومیه یک میلیارد و ۹۲۰ میلیون مترمکعب است. حجم آب دریاچه سال گذشته یک میلیارد و ۲۵۰ میلیون متر مکعب بود که نسبت به سال گذشته ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب افزایش یافته است.

Our Iftar Will Be in Al-Quds



From page 1 ► “As a Palestinian who lives in Iran, I feel that this work gives me strength and this does not only include me, but also all Palestinians who live inside the occupied territories or outside of Palestine,” a Palestinian student in Tehran told Al-Alam News Network.

“This campaign gives Palestinians the feeling that the issue of Palestine is still alive and has a place in the hearts and minds of all the world.”

The ceremony includes various programs, including cultural events and songs about occupied Palestine, and all the fasting people are invited to take part.

The important purpose of holding this ceremony is to support the Palestinian nation against the pains and pressures that they suffer as a result of the aggressive actions of the Israeli occupying forces.

“Our purpose of holding this ceremony, in Palestine Square and near the Palestinian Embassy, is to declare our solidarity with the Palestinian people who are facing the crimes of the Zionist

ist regime today, so that they know that we are with them until the liberation of Quds,” one of the organizers said.

Words such as oppression, resistance, defense, and protection of the homeland have undoubtedly no boundaries.

This issue makes the Islamic nation stand together in support of the Palestinian people, and this is the best reason for holding this ceremony.

This Iftar table is held in the holy month of Ramadan and near the Palestinian embassy in Tehran to call for support for the Palestinian cause.

Everyone hopes that the blessed Iftar table will spread in the Al-Aqsa Mosque after the liberation of the holy city.

World Quds Day coincides with the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan. It was designated as Quds Day on 7 August 1979 on the initiative of Imam Khomeini (May his soul rest in peace) to support the Palestinian cause and nation and mark a new stage of solidarity with the people of Palestine.

World Ramsar Sites

Dong dongting hu

Part 1

East Dongting Lake Wetlands, which is now the largest and best-preserved natural seasonal lake in the Dongting Lake area, located in the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River, accepts the water from Yangtze, Xiang, Zi, Yuan and Li River.

The wetlands appear as a single surface of water in summer but can be divided into five kinds of landscapes in winter: water surface, reed marsh, Carex marsh, peat marsh and mudflats.

The ecological environment of the wetlands is well-preserved. The main plants are aquatic plants such as reeds, Carex sp., Triarrhena sacchariflora, and Potamogeton octandrus.

The wetlands are an important stopover site and wintering grounds for migratory birds, also the main output site of the four most common cultivated fishes in China and the site of the genetic resources center of freshwater fishes.

Some 338 species of birds could be observed in the Reserve, including 127 species of water birds with a total number of more than 100,000. Of all the birds, 52 species are listed as national protected birds in China,

129 species area listed in the Bird Protection Agreement between China and Japan or Bird Protection Agreement between China and Australia, and 16 species as threatened waterbirds on the IUCN Red List.

There are 114 species of fishes in the reserve. Among 1186 species of plants recorded in the reserve, 468 species are aquatic plants. The wetlands are also the main habitat for the river dolphins of the Yangtze valley.

Geology and Physiognomy

This wetland is located in the lowland between the anticline of Jiangnan and the syncline of Eqian. In the late Mesozoic Era, the Yanshan Mount movement corrupted and the Xiangjiang fracture zone appeared with the east part of the fractures rising and the west sinking during the Tertiary and the Quaternary Period.

It became stable in the recent epoch. Under the striking force of Yangtze River, Xiang River, Zi River, Yuan River, and Li River, the geosyncline crust is covered by the remnants of the rivers and the lakes gradually to form flat lake basin.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



Blood donation on Qadr night

People refer to blood donation centers during the holy month of Ramadan to help patients in need.

Philanthropic assistance has been recommended especially during the Qadr nights (19th, 21st, and 23rd days of Ramadan), which mark the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), the first Shia Imam.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

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

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



Tehrantimes79

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

APRIL 11, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Richness is not having many belongings, but richness is contentment of the soul.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times» Noon:12:05 Evening: 18:52 Dawn: 4:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:36 (tomorrow)

Mutual Influence of Chinese and Persian Ceramics

Part 1

Chinese influence on Persian ceramics

Chinese ceramics were the single most important stimulus to the development of fine pottery in the Islamic world, arriving first in the 9th century.

Previously Islamic potters had produced mainly simple kitchen and storage wares, unglazed or with low-fired turquoise glazes.

The first meeting with fine Chinese wares taught them that pottery making need not be restricted to serving mere utilitarian ends but could be developed into a skilled artistic enterprise, producing goods for the luxury market.

Contemporary textual references reflect the esteem in which the Chinese wares were held. Vast quantities of them came to the Middle East directly through a trade that has continued virtually uninterrupted until the present.

By the mid-9th century potters in the Islamic world had transformed the quality of their products, creating a market in which their goods approached the status of fine or precious metalwork, even if they did not directly compete with it.

The burgeoning urban classes had a new manufactured commodity, in addition to textiles, metalwork, and glass, on which to spend surplus income.

All Islamic pottery is of earthenware fired at relatively low temperatures; neither the raw material nor the technology for making the high-fired stone-wares and porcelains typical of China was available in the Near East.

The hardness and strength of imported articles like the stoneware containers or simple dishes that arrived in quantity in the early Abbasid period (8th-10th centuries) could thus not be reproduced, but only the surface appearance.

Islamic potters thus generally found it profitable to concentrate on copying wares that were valued for their looks and “status,” rather than those valued for practical use.

A history of Islamic pottery can be structured around three successive “waves,” or phases, of Chinese influence, each initiated by the arrival in the Near East of a new type of ceramic ware.

The phases tended to follow a similar pattern. First, the Islamic potters developed a technology allowing them to make close copies of the imported ware.

Then they began to develop their own variations, usually involving the addition of color and decoration of an Islamic nature. It is not surprising that evidence for Chinese imports consists largely of copies; few shreds and even fewer complete pieces of early Chinese pottery have been found on Islamic territory.

There has been little controlled archeological exploration in Persia, and less still has been published. Only from the 15th century onward do Chinese originals survive in quantity.

1. “White glaze” phase, 9th-10th centuries: Persia played as important a part in the overall development and exploitation of Chinese-inspired ceramic technologies and styles as any country in the central Islamic world, but

“The Candle of Bayt al-Mal”, Ruholamin’s new artwork honors Imam Ali’s martyrdom anniversary

From Page 1 ▶ The artwork depicts the Imam putting out a candle in one hand, while holding another burning one in his other hand during his meeting with Talha and Zubair, two companions of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

It has been produced based on a story, which broke in the early days of the Imam’s caliphate when Talha and Zubair went to meet Imam Ali (AS) to discuss a personal matter while the Imam was putting public affairs in order at the Bayt al-Mal, the public treasury in the Islamic concept. The Imam extinguished the candle purchased with public funds, instead lighting another one that he purchased with his own personal funds.

“Now, you have come for some personal work, so I must use the candle purchased with my personal funds,” said Imam Ali (AS) when his guests asked about his actions.

Ruholamin is best known for his paintings of stories from the history of Islam.

Last week, he unveiled his painting “Idol-Breaking Generation” to celebrate the birthday of Imam Hassan (AS), the

“The Candle of Bayt al-Mal” by Hassan Ruholamin.

second Imam of the Shia.

The painting shows Imam Hassan (AS) fighting in the Battle of the Camel, also known as the Battle of Jamal or the Battle of Basra, which took place outside of Basra, Iraq, in 656 CE. The battle

was fought between the army of Imam Ali (AS), on one side, and the rebel army led by Aisha, Talha and Zubair, on the other side.

Through his art, Ruholamin has also expressed sympathy over public incidents.

As the latest example, he paid tribute to Qaribreza Darabi, an elite firefighter that was killed while battling a fire in Tehran’s Bahar Street in February by portraying him on canvas in a painting named “Qoqnus”.

“The Dream of a Horse”, “Deer” to compete in Trento Film Festival

A scene from the short Iranian drama “Deer” by Hadi Babaifar.

TEHRAN – Iranian shorts “The Dream of a Horse” and “Deer” will compete in different sections of the 71st edition of the Trento Film Festival in Italy.

The event, which focuses on mountain films, will take place in Trento from April 28 to May 7.

“The Dream of a Horse” will be screened in High Lands, a section dedicated to screening creative documentaries on mountain people, traditions and shifting landscapes.

In this documentary, director Marjan Khosravi

follows Shahnaz, the oldest daughter of a nomad family, who loves writing and her stories are inspired by her lifestyle. Her father wants to marry her off to better the family’s condition, but Shahnaz wants to pursue bigger dreams.

Directed by Hadi Babaifar, “Deer” will be shown in the official competition, which features the most exciting and original recent documentaries and short films that compete for the Gold and Silver Gentians.

The drama is about a little boy, who has

“Sources of Architectural Form” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “Sources of Architectural Form: A Critical History of Western Design Theory” by American scholar Mark Gelernter has been published in Persian.

First published in 1995, the Persian edition was published by Cheshmeh. Puyan Ruhi is the translator of the book.

“Sources of Architectural Form” provides a critical history of Western architecture theory from the ancient world to the present day.

It focuses on design theory’s central question: how does the

Front cover of the Persian edition of Mark Gelernter’s book “Sources of Architectural Form”.

architect generate architectural form? Theorists necessarily tackle this fundamental question in order to explain a number of puzzling issues including the origins of the style, the persistence of tradition and the role of genius.

This book describes the major design theories in eight chronological periods, conveying their flavor with contemporary quotations. Each theory is analyzed for its strengths and weaknesses.

Gelernter identifies an important relationship between theories of design and theories of knowledge,

and so explains and analyses each period’s dominant epistemological concepts.

Contemporary theorists of education are also examined, as many theorists from Vitruvius to Gropius included precepts for teaching as integral components of their ideas.

Gelernter is an American academic, architectural historian and writer. He was the dean of the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado, Denver. He also taught at the college.

The Impact of The Islamic Revolution out of the Borders of Iran

A review session for the book “The Bride of Yemen”

A review session was held for the book “The Bride of Yemen” which is written by Zeinab Pashapur. This book is the story of the life of Fatemeh Momeni, whose life path led her to the uprising of the Yemeni people and their struggle against the aggression of Saudi Arabia and its allies.

At the beginning of the session, Pashapur said that her entry into the professional world of writing had been with the book “I Am Disserted Without You” which is about her life and her martyred husband.

She also added that she got acquainted with Fatemeh Momeni through her husband in a ceremony they were invited to as martyr’s family.

According to the author, Momeni was good a link to receive Yemeni news without intermediaries, and after some time, she realized that the life of Mrs. Momeni and her

husband has the potential to become a good book about the people of Yemen.

This author explained that, unfortunately, the things that happened after the publication of this book, including the arrest of Mr. Hassan al-Emad, caused this book not to be seen, and they could not even invite him to the book’s revealing ceremony.

Pashapur stated that when the book was published, it quickly became very famous in Yemen, and especially the media close to Saudi Arabia in this country showed a lot of reactions.

Pashapour expressed that they had planned to translate and publish this book in Arabic, but things turned out differently, and they will publish this translation as soon as possible.

Regarding the difficulties of writing the book with several narrators, the author said that although it made the work challenging, it also made it interesting. According to her,

while writing, she put herself in the shoes of the readers and tried her best to make the reader enjoy reading the book while receiving its main message.