# RANGI

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#### TehranPapers 🕕

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

#### Message of delivering 200 drones to the army

In an opinion piece in the Iran newspaper, Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani wrote: "Last week, more than 200 drones of the Karar, ▶ Page 2

Op-ed



#### Taiwan question is the core of the core interests of China

#### By Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador to Iran

Lately, out of the sinister intention of interfering in China's internal affairs and plotting to use Taiwan to contain China, several countries have claimed that they oppose "changing the status quo with force" in the Taiwan Strait, accused China of challenging the socalled rules-based international order, and of disrupting peace and stability across the Strait. Such claims do not reflect the facts

and reality on the Tai-Iran has wan question and go against basic comlong abided mon sense on international relations and by the historical justice. They one-China are narrative traps designed with malign principle purposes. Given that disinformation and falsehoods have been

spread around world, it is necessary for us to clear the air and set the record straight with facts.?

What is the status quo in the Taiwan Strait? First of all, Taiwan, as an integral part of China, has never been a country, neither in history nor now, and is even less likely to be a country in the future. Second, although the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are yet to realize complete reunification, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China have never been divided, nor can they be. ▶ Page 5

#### Hamid Motahari added to Iran football coaching staff

TEHRAN - Former Nassaji head coach Hamid Motahari was added to Iran national football team coaching staff on Wednesday.

Gol Gohar head coach Saeid Alhoei and ex-Iran midfielder Andranik Teymourian had been previously added to the coaching staff.

The 49-year-old coach has already worked as assistant coach in Rah Ahan, Saba, Saipa and Persepolis.

Motahari was sacked as head coach of Nassaji in early April following poor results in the Iran football league.

He will assist Amir Ghalenoei to prepare the National Team for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.



A Sudanese demonstrator calling for the end of fighting in Sudan holds up a sign outside Britain's Ministry of Defense in London, April 23, 2023

## Israel Between Two Generals

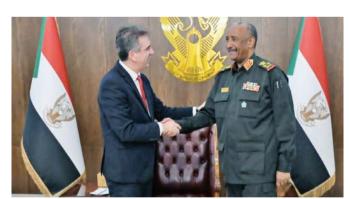
#### By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- While some regional actors are playing a role, the Zionist regime stands to be the winner of an all-out war in the northeastern African country of Sudan.

In less than two weeks of intense clashes, residential areas of the capital Khartoum have turned into warzones.

Despite failed truce attempts, the violence is going on. So far hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands of residents are trying to flee the capital as the main focus of the war at the moment.

Heavily armed forces loyal to the highest ranking general and his now former deputy have put the resource-rich African nation at risk of collapse *In the Sudan conflict Tel Aviv prefers* Hemedti, but does not want to abandon Gen. al-Burhan



Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen meets with Sudanese ruler Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan in Khartoum on February 2, 2023.

and a military dictatorship, something Israel and the U.S. strongly desire.

After a popular and largely peaceful uprising that saw months of street protests in

2019 against President Omar al-Bashir, the military stepped in and jailed the long-time ruler. But, the path to a civilian transition was halted by the October 2021 military coup.

The two generals who formed a "transitional military council" controlled Sudan to the despair of the civilians who held regular protests and were met with open fire. More than 100 protesters had been killed since the coup.

They are now rivals. They are fighting each other for power.

After the ouster of Bashir. army chief Abdul Fatah al-Burhan took the helm and swiftly appointed a deputy, Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. ▶ Page 5

#### The price of betrayal to "The Three Noes of Khartoum"

#### By Mohammad Sarfi Editor-in-Chief

After the six-day war between Arabs and Israel in 1967, Arab leaders gathered in Khartoum. The Arab League summit ended on September 1st with a seven-point resolution. This meeting and resolution became famous and historic because of its third point. The third point of the Khartoum resolution emphasized that:

"The Arab Heads of State have agreed to unite their political efforts at the international and diplomatic level to eliminate the effects of the aggression and to ensure the withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces from the Arab lands which have been occupied since the aggression of 5 June. This will be done within the framework of the main principles by which the Arab States abide, namely, no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it, and insistence on the rights of the Palestinian people in their own country."

In this point, there were three important commitments that became famous as the "Three Noes." Since then, Sudan has undergone many ups and downs, including about 15 coups.

Two years after the Sudanese army, under the leadership of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in a coup, a political delegation from the Israeli regime visited Sudan. In the meetings and negotiations, the coup leaders agreed with Israeli envoys to pave the way for Sudan's reconciliation with Israel. ▶ Page 2

#### Russia cautions against 'huge mistake' of sparing opportunity to resurrect JCPOA

TEHRAN- Sergey Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Russia, has urged the West to take advantage of the chance to salvage Iran's nuclear program, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"It would be a huge mistake to pass up the chance of resuming this deal," Lavrov told reporters in New York.

▶ Page 3

Speaking with reporters on Tuesday in New

York, the Russian foreign highlighted that it would be a "huge mistake" to lose the opportunity to resume the JCPOA as a result of the West's actions. ▶ Page 2



Detained diplomat Asadi will return home



Mazandaran: a picture-perfect destination for nature lovers ▶ Page 6

#### **Erdogan awards IRCS** "For Dedication" to help quake-hit people

TEHRAN - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has awarded the Iranian Red Crescent Society with the "For Dedication" medal for its support in the aftermath of the February 6 earthquake.

In a ceremony that *The medal* was held on Tuesday, Erdogan conferred the medal on Pir-Hossein to IRCS head Kolivand for his efforts to provide quake-hit Pir-Hossein people with rescue and relief services.

was awarded Kolivand.

The Iranian Red Cres-

cent Society was the first national community in the world, whose planes carrying humanitarian aid and its specialized rescue teams landed in the earthquake-stricken areas of Turkey and Syria and carried out rescue operations in cooperation with the red crescent societies of the two host countries.▶ Page **7** 

#### ·TEHRAN PAPERS-

#### Message of delivering 200 drones to the army

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

From page **1** ► Ababil and Arash types were delivered to the army in different parts of the country at the presence of the senior commanders of the armed forces... Our studies and evaluations of the possible future battlefields remind us of the important role of drones and their priority. Building drones started at the end of the holy defense era and along the same path, the country's defense scientists and experts made tremendous progress in defense industry. The result of these efforts has been to design and produce various types of drones for various missions to meet the needs of the armed forces and the country to the extent that, according to friends and foes, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now among the first few countries in the world in the field of drone industry. Due to the acquired capabilities and variety of these drones, the combat power of our armed forces has increased significantly, and my colleagues are trying to keep this competitive and strategic advantage up to date with initiatives, innovations and rapid technological developments.

#### Kayhan: Miscalculation of the West about JCPOA

In its editorial, Kayhan addressed the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the West. It wrote: Will the JCPOA be revived or not? It must be said that the story is quite clear. The final text of the JCPOA has been prepared for months, but the miscalculation of Americans and Westerners has prevented its signing.

Their miscalculation backfired once again, because they thought that by launching riots with the aim of scaring Iran, they would be able to use the JCPOA as a bargaining chip to extract concessions from Iran by limiting the Islamic Republic's missile power, but now they have realized that they cannot do such things. Such miscalculations will no longer allow the Americans to make the right decisions and return to the same final text in which Josep Borrell had declared that Iran's proposals were "reasonable".

#### Jam-e-Jam: Sensitivity to Iranian computer

In a detailed report, Jam-e-Jam discussed the production of computer games in Iran and the anger of the country's enemies regarding this matter. It wrote: Plenty of media attacks on games produced in Iran indicate their accurate targeting and effectiveness in domestic and international arenas. They prove the high and authoritative steps of our country in the field of computer games production, which can be a proof of the capabilities of the committed and expert forces of the country to produce native games. Therefore, to pay attention to the media capacities of computer games and support the producers of these games are important issues that should be paid attention to.

#### Hamshahri: The goals of the foreign minister's

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the aims of Amir Abdollahian's trip to Oman. It wrote: Muscat has played a prominent role to mediate between Iran and the West in recent years in order to solve the complicated issues. The records of Oman's mediation are clear in the JCPOA to exchange of prisoners between Iran and the United States, and release of Iran's frozen assets in some countries. Now, due to the unclear outlook of the JCPOA negotiations, it seems that Muscat is continuing to play its mediatory role.

Following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, a new opportunity has been created to improve relations between the Islamic Republic and some Arab states such as Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan. It is widely believed that Muscat is playing an effective role in this regard. Earlier, some regional media had reported of a meeting between delegations from Iran and Egypt hosted by Oman.

#### Arman-e-Emrooz: Iran and the new Middle East

In a column, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the birth of the new Middle East and its dimensions as well as Iran's role in it. It wrote: Undoubtedly, Iran should use this opportunity created after the war in Ukraine and like other countries, put national interests at the top of priorities. To do so, the first step is to build trust, and it is only after this step that a good relationship can be established with all Arab countries. The belief must be conveyed to the Arab countries that Iran has no enmity with them, and it is clear in such situations that Iran's new plan can be implemented to accompany the countries of the region.

#### New Fateh-class submarines to join Iranian Navy fleet

sTEHRAN - Two new models of domestically produced Fateh-class submarines will soon join the Iranian Navy fleet, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Tuesday, highlighting the Iranian Army's most recent accomplishments and efforts to fortify its naval forces.

The admiral also said that the submarines will soon be included into the nation's naval fleet.

Referring to the new characteristics and capabilities of the new submarines, Fateh-2 and Fateh-3, Irani went on to say, "Today, they are equipped with dual-purpose and home-made torpedoes, and all their test launches have been successful."

In other parts of his remarks, Irani stated that the Navy will soon inform Iranians of an extremely good news on a "unique achievement".

The 600-ton Fateh is a semi-heavy submarine with cutting-edge armament, including torpedoes

Additionally, Fateh is equipped with a guided missile system and a sophisticated sonic radar system that can see hostile warships.

It has a nearly five-week operating range at depths of more than 200 meters.

Iran's advanced submarines of various classes, including Ghadir, Qaem, Nahang, Tareq, and Sina, have all been launched thus far.

In order to provide security for commercial ships and tankers, Iran's navy has recently strengthened its presence in international waterways.

Throughout its missions in international seas, the Navy has been able to thwart a number of attacks against Iranian and foreign tankers.

#### Iran collects "fingerprints" of hostile warplanes, electronic warfare systems

The chief executive of Iran Electronics Industries (IEI) also said on Tuesday that Iran has digital fingerprints of the enemy's electronic military hardware.

Brigadier General Amir Rastegari noted that Iranian troops are employing technology allowing them to identify all electromagnetic wave dimensions emitted by enemy fighter planes and launch targeted attacks against them.

#### Iran reminds U.S. of Operation Eagle Claw failure as eye-opener

TEHRAN - In a statement released to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the failed U.S. Operation Eagle Claw intended to liberate the American diplomats held in Iran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry referred to the event as an "aggressive action and violation of international regulations."

The statement called on the U.S. government to "reflect on and learn from the results of this action and more than four decades of hostile approaches and actions against the resistant and proud nation of Iran."

To release diplomats, U.S. soldiers approached Tabas in South Khorasan Province in April 1980. However, a dust and sandstorm caught them off guard at night.

Relations between Iran and the United States were strained as a result of the event, which had important political repercussions.

"The day of April 25, 1980, reminds the U.S. forces of their violation of the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their illegal entry to Tabas in the eastern Iranian province of South Khorasan," the statement said, adding that fortunately "the aggressive measure taught the U.S. a bitter lesson as its forces faced a salutary failure during their 1980 operation in Iran's Tabas."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## Iran optimistic Oman's moves will strengthen regional peace

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, has expressed optimism that Oman's positive actions will lead to the consolidation of peace in the region.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments in a conversation with Sultan bin Mohammed al-Numani, the Minister of the Royal Office in the Sultanate of Oman, on Wednesday in Muscat.

He asserted that exchanging delegations between Iran and Oman will open the door for relations to be reactivated and potentials to be utilized to cement cooperation.

The foreign minister complimented Oman's efforts to promote regional dialogues, mentioning Oman's involvement in Iran-Saudi discussions and regional and international dialogues.

He also respected the idea of good neighborliness and supported the restoration of relations with Saudi Arabia within the context of the sitting Iranian government's "neighbors first" policy.

Amir Abdollahian added that the biggest option for transiting through Iran is due to its distinct geopolitical position.

For his part, Mohammed al-Numani, stressed the growth of collaboration with Iran.

He also talked about how the deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran has restored stability to the region.

Amir Abdollahian traveled to Oman on Tuesday in charge of a delegation at the request of Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi, Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

#### Abdollahian applauds Oman's regional policy

During a meeting with his Omani counterpart on Tuesday,



Amir Abdollahian complimented Oman's approach of consolidating and bolstering relations with neighboring nations.

He also thanked him for mediation efforts by Sultan Haitham bin Tarig and the government of Oman "for their positive role" in JCPOA nuclear talks.

He expressed hope that the upcoming 20th session of the Joint Economic Commission, scheduled to be held in Tehran soon, would pave the way for closer cooperation between the two nations, citing the visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Muscat and the upcoming trip by the Sultan of Oman to Tehran as turning points in relations in a number of sectors.

Regarding regional concerns, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized the relevance of regional cooperation and the holding of meetings between Iran and Saudi Arabia in Muscat and Baghdad.

He also expressed pleasure with the advancement of ties between the countries in the region and Iran's devotion to the good neighborhood



and inclusive security in the region and characterized the deployment of foreign troops as expensive and detrimental to that security.

He also praised the tremendous progress made in line with establishing peace in Yemen and expressed optimism that the negotiations between the Omani and Saudi delegations in Sanaa would pave the way for durable peace.

The Zionist regime's assault against the Palestinian people, notably its attacks on Gaza and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, was also denounced by the Iranian foreign

He also highlighted Oman's assistance to the Palestinians.

The officials talked about transportation concerns, establishing direct and regular maritime routes, enacting the Ashgabat Agreement, commercial collaboration between the two nations in food and agricultural sectors, reciprocal investment and energy sector during the meeting.

#### Iran supports plans for ceasefire in Yemen, lifting of blockade

Also, in a meeting with Mo-Furthermore, Amir Abdollahian hammed Abdulsalam, the senior stressed the necessity of indivisible negotiator for Yemen's National



Salvation Government, in the Iranian embassy in Oman on Tuesday, Amir Abdollahian Tehran supports any initiative and action that leads to the lifting of siege on Yemen, implementation of ceasefire, and a settlement between the political groups in Yemen.

The senior Iranian diplomat characterized the developments regarding Yemen's humanitarian crisis and the return of captives as positive.

He emphasized the integrity of Yemen's territory and declared, "Iran welcomes any initiative, plan, and action that leads to the lifting of the blockade on Yemen and the establishment of a comprehensive ceasefire and understanding among the Yemeni political groups."

Mohammed Abdulsalam, for his part, praised Iran for humanitarian assistance to Yemen and updated Amir Abdollahian on the latest status of discussions with Saudi Arabia in Sanaa in many sectors.

Commending the recent deal between Riyadh and Tehran and its positive effects on the situation in the region, he said, "We will continue to resist and talk until reaching an agreement that will ensure the rights of all Yemeni people."

#### Tehran criticizes UN apathy on Israeli atrocities

TEHRAN- Iran's envoy to the UN has blasted Israel's atrocities against Palestinians as blatant violations of human rights and international law and decried the UN Security Council's lack of reaction.

During a speech to a meeting of the Security Council on "the situation in the Middle East including Question of Palestine" on Tuesday, Saeed Iravani said it is regrettable that the Security Council has remained silent, making UN resolutions ineffective and leaving the Palestinian people to endure ongoing Israeli atrocities.

What follows is the full text of his speech:

For 75 years, the Palestinian people have been vic-women and 170 children, are being illegally and arbi-

tims of the Israeli regime's unrelenting aggression, violence, and injustices. The occupation of their land continues, with cities being blockaded, property and farmlands being destroyed and confiscated, and people being forced to evacuate their homes.

Since the beginning of the year, Palestinians have been subjected to excessive violence, suppression, and terror by both illegal Israeli settlers and armed forces. This has resulted in the detainment and assassination of civilians, and the killing and martyring of 100 Palestinians, including 21 children.

Moreover, almost 5.000 Palestinians, including 31

trarily held in Israeli jails where they are subjected to inhumane treatment.

These horrific acts are part of a larger pattern of systematic violations of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people by the Israeli regime. They represent a clear violation of international law and established principles and norms of human rights.

We are deeply concerned by the repeated assaults and incursions by extremist settlers, with the support of Israeli occupation forces, against the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

#### Russia cautions against 'huge mistake' of sparing opportunity to resurrect JCPOA

a decision was made quite some and Arab nations, stating that it time ago to restart the JCPOA. Now was a positive development. that European nations have lost interest for whatever reason, U.S. officials are stating through various channels under the condition of confidentiality that an alternative course of action should be pursued. I believe that missing the opportunity to continue this deal would be a huge mistake," he stated.

The senior Russian diplomat also stated that the rebirth of the JCPOA "does not depend on Iran, Russia, or China" at this time, but "the ones who destroyed it must now bring it back to life."

He also mentioned the im-

From page **1** ▶ "We presume that provement in ties between Iran

"In principle, we support the establishment of some mechanisms for mutual assistance, openness, and confidence-building in the Persian Gulf region," he noted.

He went on to say that the previously agreed-upon document is completely in accordance with this purpose.

The goal of achieving unilateral benefits through bargaining or blackmailing is reflected in attempts to impose new conditions that were not included in the original document, according to Lavrov, nuclear program.



who stated that these efforts complicate the process

Iran's signature of the JCPOA with six major nations demonstrated to the world the benign character of its

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

In April 2021, talks in Vienna, the capital of Austria, began with the goal of easing sanctions against Iran and determining how serious the United States was about rejoining the agreement.

However, due to Washington's insistence on not lifting all of the sanctions and refusal to provide the essential assurances that it won't quit the accord again, the negotiations have remained dormant since August 2022.

#### The price of betrayal to "The Three Noes of Khartoum"

From page 1 ▶ The head of the Israeli delegation was Eli Cohen. He triumphantly returned from Khartoum saying that the "Three Noes" had become "Three Yeses": "We are building a new reality with the Sudanese, in which the "Three Noes" will become the "Three Yeses": Yes to negotiations between Israel and Sudan, yes to recognition of Israel and yes to peace between the states and between the peoples."

This relationship continued and in the latest visit on February 2, 2023, Cohen, the foreign minister of the Israeli regime, met with General al-Burhan and the defense minister of the coup government in Khartoum.

General al-Burhan, who had opened the doors of Khartoum to the child-killing regime, did not expect to be betrayed. After Hemedti, the commander of the RSF paramilitaries, staged a coup and turmoil, Tel Aviv stood by Hemedti.

Both Hemedti and al-Burhan have shown their allegiance to Israel, but Hemedti has characteristics that are currently more beneficial to Israel. Hemedti's control over Sudan could lead to the collapse of the country's army. It should be noted that the body of Sudan's army is made up of Islamist and anti-Israel forces, and its collapse is a win for Tel Aviv.

Another point is that Hemedti has shown more audacity to move towards Israel's goals and his forces can take on the role of mercenaries for Israel in surrounding areas and even further away. They took on this role extensively in the Yemen war. Hemedti's victory opens the way for partitioning Sudan once again, as Israel did with South Sudan.

News sources have said that Mossad has had

against him and plunged Sudan into a battlefield contact with Hemedti and the mediator of this contact is also the UAE. This contact and support have angered General al-Burhan, who had promised to normalize relations with Israel.

> The situation in Sudan has become more complicated than before and the people of this country are paying the price for the power struggle between the generals. The interesting point of the story is that Israel has announced in its latest official position that it wants to mediate between the two generals.

What is certain is that just as Israel betrayed General al-Burhan, it will also turn its back on Hemedti when necessary. The result of betraying the Palestinian cause and colluding with the number one enemy of the Islamic world is nothing but a boomerang effect. The generals come and go in Sudan, but the Muslim people's opinion about Israel does not change.

# Detained diplomat Asadi will return home

TEHRAN – Masoud Setayeshi, the spokesman for Iran's Judiciary, said on Wednesday morning that Iran and Belgium have already signed a prisoner swap deal and that it will be implemented.

Setayeshi said the deal includes the swap of Asadullah Assadi with a Belgian spy.

Speaking at a press conference, the spokesman said, "The agreement on the exchange of convicts between Iran and Belgium has been concluded and finalized and its documents have been exchanged."

He added, "The opposite party had made a request in this regard and we have also requested the release of Mr. Asadullah Asadi. After the formalities, Mr. Asadullah Asadi will be exchanged with the Belgian spy and released."

Recently, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi spoke by phone with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo.

They discussed "the latest status of judicial interactions and cooperation between the two countries and ways to speed up the implementation of relevant agreements," according to a readout by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Referring to the 130 years of relations between the two countries, Raisi called for developing interactions and cooperation between the two countries in various fields of science, technology and agriculture.



Raisi also called on European countries to stop supporting and sheltering terrorist and separatist groups in their countries.

De Croo, while expressing his satisfaction with the understandings reached between the two countries on mutual cooperation, emphasized the importance of developing and strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields.

Assadi was detained in Belgium in 2018 over dubious charges. He is currently serving a 20-year jail term in Belgium.

In June 2018, Belgian officials ans found guilt said that two persons in Belgium received homemade bombs from and vice versa.

an Iranian diplomat after Belgium's police had stopped a vehicle carrying the contraband. He was charged of preparing an assault against the terrorist group Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MKO), which the Iranian government vehemently denies.

In March 2023, a plea for the revocation of a treaty with Iran that permits the exchange of prisoners between Iran and Belgium was rejected by the Constitutional Court of Belgium. The court said that it had rejected the annulment request made by the MKO.

According to the treaty, Iranians found guilty in Belgium might spend their sentences at home,

The treaty can result in the release of Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi, who has been unjustly detained in the European country.

Iran's Foreign Ministry vehemently denounced the jail sentence against Assadi, calling it wholly illegal, a breach of diplomatic immunity, and a manipulation of Belgium being by the MKO.

"Unfortunately, Belgium and some other European countries have taken such illegal and unjustifiable actions against Assadi under the influence of the atmosphere that has been created by the hostile MKO terrorist group on Europe's soil," the ministry said at the time.

#### Raisi decoupled Iran's affairs from JCPOA: MP

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has praised the Raisi administration's move to reduce the impact of the 2015 nuclear deal on the internal affairs of Iran, describing it as a "good achievement."

The lawmaker, Shahriyar Heidari, who is a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, hailed the foreign policy agenda of the Raisi administration.

In remarks to the parliamentary news agency ICANA, Heidari also said Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian did a lot of efforts to strengthen Iran's relations with its neighbors.

"Deepening relations with neighbors and regional and even Asian countries is considered one of the strategic policies of our country," said Heidari, adding, "Over the past year, we have seen establishment of high-level relations with countries such as Russia, China, and even Saudi Arabia."

According to Heidari, the conclusion of longterm strategic contracts with regional countries shows the serious determination of the government to create common interests with countries and governments. "The diplomatic apparatus of our country has taken a good path to restore relations with neighbors and countries in the region, and this will affect the economic, cultural and even social components," the lawmaker said.

"In other words, it can be acknowledged that the 13th government has tried to behave in addition to the past process in the field of foreign policy and not to tie the future of the relations of the Islamic Republic to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)."

The lawmaker concluded, "This has caused the unilateral and cruel sanctions of the United States against our country to be neutralized because the [number of] countries that interact with Iran have increased and more capacities have been created."

To this end, Amir Abdollahian traveled to Oman on Tuesday and is expected to arrive in Lebanon on Wednesday.

In Muscat, he praised Oman's policy of consolidating and strengthening relations between the two countries.

He described the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Muscat as well as the upcoming visit

of the Sultan of Oman to Tehran as a turning point in bilateral relations in various sectors.

Touching on regional issues, the chief diplomat pointed to Muscat's and Baghdad's hosting of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, highlighting regional cooperation as an important necessity.

He expressed satisfaction with the fact that relations of the regional states are in a proper and promising situation and within the framework of the 13th administration's "neighbors-first" policy and its adherence to the principle of good-neighborliness.

The MP also said comprehensive and indivisible security is an important must for the region and, in this regard, described the presence of foreign forces as costly and disruptive to regional security.

In Beirut, Amir Abdollahian is set to meet with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berry, caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati, and Foreign Minister Abdullah Bu Habib on Thursday.

The Raisi administration has been pursuing the neighborhood policy right from the start, which aims to boost Iran's relations with neighbors and major non-Western world powers.

#### Indian general says Delhi upbeat over military co-op with Iran

TEHRAN – An Indian general has said that New Delhi and Tehran are eyeing closer cooperation in newer domains in the future, Tasnim reported.

Lieutenant General Dinesh Singh Rana, the Director General of India's Defense Intelligence, said Iran and India are working together to explore avenues for military cooperation in newer domains.

He made the remarks during a ceremony in New Delhi held on the occasion of the Iranian Army Day.



Rana, who was the chief guest at the event, said India and Iran have established a "comprehensive partnership" based on strong "mutual trust". He also highlighted the countries' long history of interaction and shared cultural and religious traditions, according to India's ANI news agency.

"I am sanguine that our friendship will continue to grow and become stronger in the coming years," Rana stated, according to Tasnim. He also pointed out that in addition to professional training military courses, a number of Iranian naval delegations have visited various Indian naval training establishments in the past, and the defense engagement between the two countries has grown

Iran's ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, also addressed the event and mentioned that Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani will visit India to attend the SCO Defense Ministers' Meeting in the coming week, which will further strengthen the defense relations between the two countries. Elahi reiterated that the military doctrine of Iran is entirely defensive and based on active deterrence.

#### Senior cleric killed in armed attack

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Abbas-Ali Soleimani, a member of the Assembly of Experts, lost his life on Wednesday morning during an armed attack in northern Iran.

The attack took place in the northern province of Mazandaran. Rouhollah Selgi, the deputy governor of the province for security affairs, said Ayatollah Soleimani was attacked by gunmen and an assailant has been arrested.

Ayatollah Soleimani previously served as the representative of the Leader to Sistan-Baluchistan province. He also was the Friday prayer imam of Zahedan, the capital of the southeastern province. In Zahedan, Ayatollah Soleimani was in charge of the affairs of Sunni Muslims.

No details released about the motives behind the attack. Officials indicated that the attack was not an act of terrorism.



#### Kazakh PM in Tehran for economic talks

TEHRAN – Kazakh Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov arrived in the Iranian capital on Wednesday and with Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber to discuss the strengthening of economic cooperation.

In a joint meeting with the visiting Kazakh prime minister, Mokhber said economic cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan is not at the political level of cooperation that the two countries currently enjoy.

"In agreement with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, it was decided to raise the level of relations to 3 billion dollars," Mokhber said, according to IRNA.

He added, "In two meetings with the presence of the Prime Minister

of Kazakhstan and the accompanying delegation, good decisions were made and it was decided to quickly develop a temporary road map between Iran and Kazakhstan."

The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan thanked Iran for inviting him to visit Tehran. "Now the long negotiations ended with good agreements, the details of which were fully explained by the First Vice-president of Iran."

He noted, "Iran and Kazakhstan have good neighborly and friendly relations. Constructive political dialogues have been established between the two countries and economic and cultural relations are developing."



Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

#### SPORTS

# Iran volleyball to play two friendlies with Turkey



TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team will play two friendly matches with Turkey in Istanbul.

Team Melli will meet the Turkish side on May 19 and 20.

Iran, currently in number 10 of the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Ranking, will look to improve further on the seventh place they took in VNL 2022 as they take on the 2023 edition in June and July.

Their Preliminary Phase campaign starts on June 6 and includes matches in Nagoya (Japan), Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and Anaheim (the U.S.). If they qualify for the VNL Finals, they will travel to Gdansk, Poland for the event from July 19 through 23.

Later in the season, Iran will try to defend their continental title as they host the 2023 Asian Championship in Tehran from Aug. 19 through 26. They will start the tournament in a pool with Hong Kong and Iraq.

From Sept. 19 to Sept. 26 in Hangzhou, China, Iran will try to conquer their third consecutive Asian Games crown.

Finally, Ataei's squad will join the qualifying battles for tickets to Paris 2024 as they travel to South America from Sept. 30 through Oct. 8 to take on Cuba, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Qatar, Ukraine and hosts Brazil for two spots at the Olympic Games next year.

#### Iran learn fate at 2023 CAFA Championships

TEHRAN – Iran national football team are drawn along with Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan in Group B of the 2023 CAFA Championships.

Group B consists of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Oman.

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan will host the competition from June 10 to 20.

The teams drawn in group B will play their matches on June 10, 13 and 16 and Group A matches will be held on June 11, 14 and 17.

The final match and the match for the third place will be played on June 20 in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

#### Iran earn late win over Nepal at U17WAC Qualifiers Round 1

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Nepal 1-0 in Round 1 of the 2024 AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup qualification on Wednesday.

Arisa Koohgard scored the winner in the 81st minute at the Prince Mohammed Stadium in Zarqa, Jordan.

Iran will play Jordan in Group H on Sunday.

The 2024 AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup qualification will determine the participating teams in the 2024 AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup final tournament.

A total of eight teams will qualify to play in the final tournament. The host country and the top three teams of the previous tournament in 2019 will qualify automatically, while the other four teams will be decided by qualification.

## Iran U23 canoers bag Asian medals

TEHRAN - Iranian kayakers won two gold and two silver medals on Wednesday in the 2023 U-23 Asian championships underway in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Iranian athletes won two gold and two silver medals in different categories on the first day of the 2023 U-23 Asian championships in Uzbekistan.

Elnaz Shafieian and Tania Kargarpour won the 500m 2x kayak gold medal, and Shahla Behrouzi Rad snatched the 500m KL3 gold medal.

Other Iranian representatives, Taranom Akbarzadeh and Maedeh Shoorgashti bagged 1000m 1x and 500m 1x kayak's silver respectively.

Paracanoe is canoeing for athletes with a range of physical disabilities. The Paralympic version of the sport is governed by the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

## Iran basketball to part company with Armaghani: report

TEHRAN – Iran basketball federation will reportedly part ways with Team Melli head coach Saeid Armaghani.

Armaghani was named as head coach of Iran national team in may 2022 but failed to meet the expectations.

Under his coaching, Iran narrowly booked a place at the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Media reports suggest that the federation is going to hire a foreign coach for the national team.

#### Chelsea edging closer to appointing Pochettino

TEHRAN - Mauricio Pochettino's appointment as Chelsea manager is edging closer and he could be formally announced in the next week.

During negotiations, Chelsea's squad size and recruitment have been discussed as well as the make-up of Pochettino's backroom staff.

Talks have progressed positively in the last few days between both parties but no formal deal has been signed yet.

Interim boss Frank Lampard is expected to be in charge for the remainder of the season.

Chelsea have been admirers of Pochettino in the past and enquired about his availability when Thomas Tuchel left in September.

The 51-year-old, who has been out of work since parting company with Paris Saint-Germain in July 2022, has been approached by Real Madrid twice before and has also turned down several offers in recent months from clubs in various European leagues.

Chelsea's search for a new manager had been reduced to three names, with Pochettino joined on the shortlist by Burnley boss Vincent Kompany and an unnamed third coach.

Former Bayern Munich head coach Julian Nagelsmann was ruled out of the running after holding talks with the club.

The 35-year-old, who was sacked by Bayern last month, was never regarded as the favorite for the job internally.

Friction between the two sides grew as Chelsea officials were determined to carry out thorough due diligence on all of the candidates before making a decision - with the German coach resenting the repeated interviews and requests for information.

Nagelsmann had reservations over the role himself and sensed Chelsea's varied shortlist reflected a lack of clarity about the direction they want to take.

## **ECONOMY**

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### Over 2b flowers produced in Tehran province



TEHRAN- As announced by the chairman of Flowers and Ornamental Plants Producers and Sellers of Tehran province, more than 2 billion flower branches are produced in Tehran

Stating that four billion flower branches are produced in the country Akbar Shahrokhi said most of the flowers and ornamental plants enter other provinces from Tehran province.

Currently, Tehran province has 15 flower markets where more than 7,000 florists are

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 home appliances export up 12%

TEHRAN- Annual export of Iran's home appliances rose 12 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the director-general of the Home Appliances Office of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade

Mohsen Shokrollahi said that the value of the country's annual home appliances export was \$440 million in 1401, while the figure was \$393 million in 1400.

He said 64 percent of the total exports of household appliances was related to refrigerators and freezers, 16 percent to heating and cooling equipment, and seven percent to small household appliances in the previous year.

"Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Central Asia have been the top destinations for the export of Iran's household appliances. The products of China and Turkey are among our competitors in the target markets", the official added.

In terms of the plans of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade to increase the export of home appliances in 1402, Shokrollahi said the plan of the ministry is to increase the quality and lower the price of household appliances in order to compete with foreign brands.

Mentioning the solutions for the sustainable export of household appliances, he said: "This year, apart from the export of the final product, we can contribute to the sustainable export of household appliances by joint production with the target countries and by complying with the standards of the importing countries."

As previously stated by the official, about 65-70 percent of the parts required to manufacture

home appliances are domestically produced. Shokrollahi said: "But for some items and products, such as refrigerators and washing machines, this is even higher than 90 percent, and we plan to reach 100 percent."

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past Iranian calendar 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 has 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

"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.

**TEDPIX loses 3,400 points on Wednesday** 

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 3,422 points to 2.365 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 20.451 billion securities worth 145.462 trillion rials (about \$346.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

TEDPIX gained 145,000 points (six percent growth) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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).

The secretary general of Iran's Securities Exchange Brokers Association (SEBA) said that the government and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) worked well to make changes in the stock market during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Mohammad-Reza Dehgani Ahmad-Abad added that these measures can bring good returns in the first half of 1402, but measures must be taken to remove the concerns from the stock market in the long term.

In an interview conducted by IRNA, Dehgani offered a solution to improve the situation of the stock market in 1402 and said: "If the shareholders can be assured that there will be no interference in the market mechanism, then we can hope for the improvement of the market situation."

He mentioned the possibility of changes in the type of pricing of goods as well as the removal of mandatory pricing from the country's economy and said: "In any way that the rate determined through the market can be officially recognized, there is no doubt that hot money will be collected and attracted to the capital market. This issue, while helping the country's economy, can prevent the destructive growth of parallel markets, which has no results other than damage to the economy."

According to Dehgani, these solutions are within the authority of the government, which can give guarantees to the shareholders with their decisions.

The secretary general of Iran's Securities Exchange Brokers Association further reiterated: "If the shareholders are given the confidence that there will be no interference in the market transactions, we can hope for a change in the stock market transactions; In this situation, the capital market will perform better than other parallel markets not only in 1402 but also in the coming years."

### Iran, Kazakhstan explore ways of expanding trade relations

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Head of Iran Chamber Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie and Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Trade and Integration Kairat Torebayev, the two sides discussed the ways for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

In the meeting held at the place of ICCIMA, Shafeie emphasized the special position of Kazakhstan as a trade partner for Iran and said the presence of the two countries in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) pacts has opened new doors for the development of economic relations, and the private sectors of the two countries should take advantage of this opportunity, the ICCIMA portal reported on Wednesday.

Emphasizing that paying attention to rail, road and sea transportation infrastructure should be a priority of the two countries, the ICCIMA head stated: "The most important problem in the way of improving the level of trade cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan is the issue of transportation. Solving this issue requires the will of the authorities of the two countries. The future of transit between the two countries can be bright due to Kazakhstan's connection to China and Iran's access to the open waters of Southeast Asia, provided that the infrastructure for exploiting this opportunity is available."



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Trade and Integration Kairat Torebayev

emphasized that his country is seeking to improve business relations with Iran as much as possible and said: "Iran is our main way to communicate with Turkey and West Asia. So far, we have had 20 million dollars in financial transactions, and the aim of these meetings is to increase this amount to 60 million dollars."

"Our economies have a good overlap. We are looking for further development of relations between the two countries, especially in the field of vegetables, fruits and fisheries", he added.

Back in last November, Iran and Kazakhstan inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the expansion of cooperation in the agriculture and trade fields as well as industries, logistics, transportation and technology transfer in Tehran.

The MOU was signed by Javad Sadati-Nejad, the Iranian agriculture minister, The Kazakh official for his part Zhumangarin Serik, the deputy prime minister and minister of trade and integration of Kazakhstan, who visited Tehran on top of a Kazakh delegation.

As reported, the effort of the two countries in order to increase the value of bilateral trade to about one billion dollars, based on the agreements of the presidents of the two countries, is considered in the MOU.

During a meeting between Kazakhstan Prime Minister Alikhan Ashanuly Smaiylov and Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber on the sidelines of the Second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow in October 2022, the Kazakh side emphasized the importance of improving the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana in the oil swap, as well as industry, agriculture, scientific and cultural

Mokhber, for his part, said that the level of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan can quickly reach three billion dollars, considering the existing capacities of the two countries.

The Kazakh prime minister welcomed the proposal of Iran's first vice president and stated that the necessary fields and capacities of the two countries are ready to raise the level of trade exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan and reach three billion dollars a year.

Mokhber then announced Iran's readiness to send mining companies to Kazakhstan and added: "Tehran is ready to cooperate with Astana in port, dam construction, hydropower plant construction, knowledgebased and technical engineering services."

Also, during an Iran-Kazakhstan business forum hosted by the ICCIMA in Tehran in mid-October last year, the two sides stressed the need for removing visa issuance and transportation obstacles, to realize a \$6 billion annual trade target.

The business forum was attended by senior officials from both sides including Shafeie, Torebayev, Kazakh Ambassador to Tehran Askhat Orazbay, and ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammadreza Karbasi, as well as the head of Iranian chambers of commerce and businessmen from the two sides.

The members of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and the Agriculture Ministry were also present at the event.

#### 'Free zones, tariffs, transport to boost Iran-Syria trade ties'

TEHRAN- Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash said that activating free zones, reducing transit tariffs, and developing transportation and tourism corridors to expand trade ties between the two countries were the main topics discussed in his meeting with the

In a meeting between Bazrpash and the entrepreneurs of Syria, participated by Syrian Minister of Public Works and Housing Suhail Abdul Latif, Transport Minister Zouhair Khazim, and Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Samer al-Khalil, the two sides explored the ways for strengthening bilateral economic relations, and the Iranian minister announced the increase of interactions between the two countries in various fields, including the activation of free zones and the reduction of transit tariffs, giving priority to the field of tourism and the for the expansion of their mutual trade ties. reconstruction projects.

development of transportation corridors.

Bazrpasharrived in Syria on Tuesday morning at the head of a high-ranking delegation and was welcomed by Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Samer al-Khalil.

During the two-day stay in Syria, the two countries' officials discussed the ways for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

Bazrpash and Samer al-Khalil co-chair Iran-Syria Joint Economic Committee.

Emphasizing the strengthening of economic relations between Iran and Syria, the Iranian minister announced the talks between the officials of the two countries to expand economic relations in the maritime and rail sectors, facilitate bank transactions and reduce free trade tariffs.

Iran and Syria have been taking major steps



Transport Minister Bazrpash (1st R), Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Samer al-Khalil (2nd R), Transport Minister Zouhair Khazim (1st L), and Minister of Public Works and Housing Suhail Abdul Latif (2nd L)

The two sides have exchanged numerous trade delegations and Iranian private companies are investing in various fields of the Syrian economy like providing construction materials especially cement and working on several

#### 'Development plans in copper sector can bring \$10b of income for country'



TEHRAN - The development of copper industry and the support of the development plans of this sector can lead to bringing \$10 billion of income for the country, the chairman of Iran Copper Association stated.

Regarding the amount of copper reserves and mining capacity of Iran, Bahram Shakouri said the reserves discovered in the country are 54 million tons, of which usually 50 percent can be extracted, underlining, "With this amount of reserve, we have a good position in the world."

with the "Now, discoveries, our position in terms of copper reserves in the and if this does not happen. we world has improved, in a way that today we have reached six percent of the world's reserves from four percent in the past, and our position in the world has increased from the 8th to the 5th place", he continued.

The chairman of the Iran Copper Association further said, "There is no balance between our reserves and production", and continued: "We must go in the direction of extracting three to five percent of the reserves in accordance with our position. If we propose today that the industry can earn 10 billion dollars, it should be able to produce one million tons of copper cathodes, which is based on global norms."

"Considering 54 million tons of reserves in the country, of which at least 27 million tons can be extracted, and we have threefive percent of the world's copper reserves, it is reasonable and logical to reach one million tons of copper cathode production, have failed", Shakouri reiterated.

"The world's movement towards the use of clean technologies and innovations will increase the consumption of non-ferrous metals such as copper, and in the coming years, there will be a need to supply copper up to four times today," Shakouri had said last November.

The increase in demand will increase the price of copper, and accordingly, we must move towards completing the copper chain in Iran, he added.

"Today, the copper chain is complete with cathode production in the country, while more than 50 percent of the copper cathode is being exported, and if we can create more added value in this sector, we will have more exports and gain more revenue," Shakouri concluded.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

Being located on the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt, of which about 12.5 percent is located in Iran, the country should contribute greatly to the fourfold increase in the world's copper production by 2050, Shakouri has stated.

Stressing the need for planning to increase Iran's share in the world's copper production, he added: "To increase our share in the global copper production in the 2050 horizon, we must develop both exploration and extraction and discover new world-class reserves."

Also in mid-March, the head of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) said the country's copper production is going to reach one million tons in the next six years.

Ali Rostami noted that in the case of reaching the abovementioned output, the country's copper export is also going to hit \$10 billion.

### Israel Between Two Generals

From page 1 ▶ Better known as Hemedti, Dagalo is the head of the powerful Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

These are the same forces, which stemmed from militias that crushed the Darfur rebellion and other restive areas, where severe atrocities were committed.

In recent months, negotiations had been under way for democratic transition, but Hemedti wanted more integration of his forces into the army as well as the extension of the military rule for ten more years.

The proposal to extend the military rule by ten years goes against the pledges made in 2021 by the "transitional military council".

Unlike the army, which has ties to the political Islamic Movement, Hemedti is known to be at odds with the Islamic Movement in Sudan.

Hemedti also has tens of thousands of soldiers under his command, which he dispatched to war zones such as Yemen to fight on behalf of the Saudi-U.S. coalition against the popular revolution in Sana'a or the civil war in Libya. That gave the Sundanese military powerful friends in Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as funds to the tune of \$3 billion.

Once a close ally of al-Bashir, Hemedti also enjoys powers enshrined to him by the former president. These include control of the gold mines, a main source of revenue for the country. In 2022, Sudan produced more than 18 tons of gold.

He displays little tolerance for dissent. Eyewitnesses say his forces shot and killed prodemocracy protesters and waging a bloody crackdown on a protest camp in 2019 outside the Ministry of Defense, where more than 100 people were killed. Hemedti denies it.

What Hemedti doesn't deny is that Sudan needs to establish closer ties with Israel. The victor of this bloody violence will likely emerge as the country's next



dictator

Before the military took over Sudan, the country supported the Palestinian cause. Over the years, Sudan's shift away from the anti-Israel axis was widely welcomed by the Zionist regime.

"We need Israel," Hemedti claimed in October 2020. "Whether we like it or not, relations with Israel are tied to removing Sudan from the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism," he added.

Apparently, if you normalize ties with Israel, Washington will remove you from its "list of states sponsoring terrorism".

Wherever there is an authoritarian regime on the planet with vast economic resources, the U.S.'s top proxy in West Asia, Israel can also be found lurking.

In essence, Hemedti ticks all the boxes for Israel, not only because the regime's normalization process with the Arab and Muslim world isn't going as planned but more importantly, like the U.S., it views Sudan for its geopolitical assets.

U.S. and Israeli dominance over Sudan will give them a foothold over the lucrative military holdings in gold, agriculture, trade, and other industries.

In addition to control over the Sahel region, the Red Sea, and the Suez Canal, it gives them a significant route for energy, commodities, consumer goods from West Asia to Europe and essentially the Horn of Africa, a geopolitically important region.

Both Hemedti and al-Burhan have been open to business with Israel. It appears the Zionist regime prefers Hemedti, considering the RSF's decadesold combat experience in warfare. That would be an extra bonus for Israel to stir up regional trouble.

But Israel needs to brush up Hemedti's track record of human rights abuses and viceversa. The regime helped him by dispatching former Israeli spy Ari Ben-Menashe, who runs the Canadian based PR firm Dickens and Madson to "polish the image of Sudan's military council" as stated on one of the company's social media pages.

Since the military took power, the Zionist regime has been playing a major role in Sudan through its foreign ministry and its Mossad spy agency. These activities have been under radar for years.

With Sudan, the U.S. and Israel have a lot to gain from preserving Hemedti's rule in the large African country in view of its gold mines oil and other natural recourses coupled with its strategic location on the Red Sea and Nile River.

On the other hand, Israel is also playing a balancing act by maintaining ties with al-Burhan as it remains to be seen who will emerge victorious from this conflict.

The regime can't afford to lose its grip on the African country if Hemedti is defeated.

This would explain why

Israel proposed hosting the rival Sudanese military leaders for ceasefire talks after "very promising" progress in mediation efforts led by an anonymous senior Israeli official over the past few days.

"Since fighting erupted in the country, Israel has been operating in various channels to reach a ceasefire, and the progress over the past few days in discussions with the sides is very promising," Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said in a statement.

The statement gave no further details other than saying the official had been holding discussions with the warring generals. Cohen has also expressed hope that working to achieve calm "would allow for the signing of a historic peace agreement" between Sudan and the child-killing regime.

That would mean a Sudan no longer sovereign, with Israel and the U.S. violating the country's territorial integrity and plundering its gold and other natural resources.

For the Sudanese people, democratic elections scheduled for this month may appear like a pipedream now.

But all is not lost yet. The Islamic Movement has not been involved until now and there is a huge risk of a refugee exodus should the violence escalate further. Europe, in particular, knows this very well.

With the Ukraine war damaging the continent, the last thing Europe can cope with at the moment is another round of a refugee crisis with hundreds of thousands of Sudanese arriving at its shores.

International calls for a permanent truce and return to normal transition could grow much louder.

#### 'No sign' Sudan generals ready to negotiate, says UN

INTERNATIONAL

There is no sign that warring parties in Sudan are ready to seriously negotiate, the United Nations' special envoy to the country said on Tuesday (April 24).

Speaking to the UN Security Council via video-link from Port Sudan, Volker Perthes said both sides seemed to think that securing a military victory over the other is possible.

"This is a miscalculation. As fighting continues, law and order will further break down throughout the country and command and control will dissipate. Sudan could become increasingly fragmented, which would have a devastating impact on the region. And even if one side wins, Sudan will lose"

Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces erupted on April 15. Both parties agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire beginning on Tuesday, which Perthes said seemed to be holding "in some parts so far".

"However, we also hear continuing reports of fighting and movement of troops"

# Americans divided over age as factor in Biden's 2024 reelection bid

A day after US President Joe Biden officially announced that he is running for reelection in 2024, the question of whether age should be a factor in his candidacy has drawn mixed reactions from Americans.

While some believe that age should not be a determining factor, others expressed concern over the 80-year-old's ability to handle the presidency due to his age.

"Biden's well within his right to run. He's proven he can do the job, but we are in uncharted territory now regarding his age," said Norb Aikin, 47, of Cortland, New York. "A second term isn't going to be a slam dunk, given his age. But if he ends up going against (76-year-old former President Donald) Trump, it won't be an issue, as both are close enough in age."

Jeff Holbrook, a 54-year-old resident of Maryville, Tennessee, said that despite not being a fan of Biden, he does not believe that age should be a deciding factor, as long as the candidate is qualified for the position

"I don't think Biden is too old, even though I don't like him," said Holbrook. "Age shouldn't matter as long as you're competent in the office you are seeking. (Former US President) Ronald Reagan was old, and he (did well)."

#### Omar al-Bashir held at army hospital

Deposed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is being held at a military hospital in Khartoum after fighting between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out and engulfed the prison where he was being held.

Al-Bashir and about 30 other prisoners were moved to Aliyaa hospital on the recommendation of medical staff at Kober Prison, the army said in a statement on Wednesday.

Al-Bashir was being held at Kober Prison in Bahri, just north of Khartoum, along with other members of his former government.

The prison was attacked during fighting between the two military groups, which led to a jailbreak on Sunday with thousands of inmates escaping.

#### NATO wanted to tear Russia apart but ended up pulling it together, says Lavrov

**APRIL 27, 2023** 

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

WORLD HEADLINES -

NATO wanted to break Russia apart but wound up bringing the country closer together instead, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday.

"Unbiased observers and political analysts both in Russia and abroad say that NATO wanted to tear Russia apart but wound up bringing it together instead," he said at a news conference after his visit to New York as part of Russia's presidency in the UN Security Council.

"It is a nice line that Russia wanted to prevent NATO's expansion. First, that's not what we wanted; we thought that it was necessary to prevent it, as many promises were made here. But they were lying and now everyone knows that, as they were lying about the Minsk agreements and many other things," he said.

## Japan looking to ease weapons export ban

Japan's ruling coalition has held the first round of talks on reviewing the country's strict weapons export rules on Tuesday, Kyodo news agency reports.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, which wants Tokyo to play a greater role in the global security arena amid the conflict in Ukraine, is pushing for the rules on overseas transfers of defense equipment and technology to be eased.

Under the Constitution, which was drawn up after Japan's defeat in World War II, weapons can only be supplied to a foreign country if it jointly develops them with Japan or produces them.

However, the LDP's junior coalition partner, Komeito, has resisted the proposed changes, arguing that the arrival of Japanese arms in the international market would go against the country's policy of pacifism and escalate conflicts around the globe.

"I hope our discussions will set a concrete direction for issues regarding defense equipment transfers," Itsunori Onodera, the former Japanese defense minister who now heads the LDP's research commission on national security, said as the parties met in Tokyo.

During the discussions, Komeito's representative, Shigeki Sato, reiterated his party's stance that the sides should not compromise "the postwar path of Japan as a peace-loving nation," as cited by Kyodo.

#### "Israel is dragging the region to violence," says presidential spokesperson

The official spokesman for the presidency Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that the Israeli authorities are dragging the region into a square of violence, escalation, tension and instability, through its insistence on continuing the policy of collective punishment, killing, attacks on al-Aqsa Mosque, continuing Israeli settlers' terrorism against Palestinians under protection from the Israeli forces.

He stressed that Palestinian people won't allow the occupation authorities to harm the al-Aqsa Mosque, and that the ongoing attacks on Bab Al-Rahma's prayer area in al-Aqsa Mosque are 'playing with fire', as it's an integral part of the mosque.

#### Taiwan question is the core of the core interests of China

From page 1 ▶ Taiwan's return to China is an important component of the post-WWII international order, as is stated in black and white in the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation. Third, the UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 adopted in 1971 resolved once and for all the representation of the entire China, Taiwan included, within the United Nations and expelled Taiwan's so-called representatives from the United Nations. It confirmed that Taiwan is a part of China, and also eliminated any room for creating "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". However, certain individual countries have spared no effort to hype up "the status quo" in the Taiwan Strait and spread the "mainland threat theory" to confuse the public. Their real purpose is to deliberately provoke confrontation between the two sides of the strait, so as to use Taiwan to contain China.

Who is trying to change this status quo? Certainly not the mainland China as individual countries said, but the "Taiwan independence" separatists who have been promoting "incremental independence", pushing for "de-sinicization", and seeking to create the false impression of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan", and the external forces who have been meddling in the Taiwan question by fudging and hollowing out the one-China principle, selling arms to Taiwan, and creating chances for Taiwan to expand its so-called "international space". They are the ones responsible for disrupting the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, distorting the one-China principle and endangering the peace and stability

in the Taiwan Strait. Their definition of rules, status quo and stability is in fact aimed to hollow out the one-China principle, achieve "peaceful division" of China, and ultimately tamper with the history of WWII, subvert the post-war order, and trample on China's sovereignty. Recently, the United States has connived Tsai Ing-wen, leader of the Taiwan region, to engage political activities in the United States, conduct official contact with Taiwan and upgrade the substantive relations with Taiwan, and with a disguise of "transit". It is a clear example of the United States and the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces colluding to try to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

How can we better maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait? The one-China principle is what underpins the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Anyone who renounces the one-China principle would be responsible for changing it. China's policy on handling the Taiwan question is very clear, which is to work with the greatest sincerity and effort to pursue peaceful reunification. China is the real defender of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Those who claim that their one-China policy hasn't changed while winking at "Taiwan independence" separatists, overtly and covertly supporting them and even going as far as to claim the opposition to such separatism as "changing the status quo", are not?adhering?to,?but?de parting?from?the?one-China?policy?and?not defending,?but?endangering?cross-Strait peace

and stability in an irresponsible way.

The one-China principle is the political



foundation and prerequisite for China to establish and develop diplomatic relations with other countries. As China's comprehensive strategic partner, Iran has long abided by the one-China principle, supports China's great cause of reunification, and opposes provoking China on the Taiwan question. In February, President Raisi paid a successful visit to China and made it clear to President Xi Jinping that Iran supported China in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China highly appreciates it.

The Taiwan question is the core of the core interests of China. All acts to challenge the one-China principle and resist the trend of reunification will be resolutely foiled. All attempts to support the "Taiwan independence" separatist moves go against the trend of history that will end in failure.?We will work together with international society, including Iran, to uphold the one-China principle, defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity, forestall any attempt to use the Taiwan question to contain China, and work for true peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

## TOURISM

APRIL 27, 2023
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

## Syria to welcome 50,000 Iranian pilgrims in year



TEHRAN – Iran will be resuming pilgrimages to Syria, and according to one of their latest arrangements, Damascus will be prepared to receive 50,000 pilgrims from the Islamic Republic per year.

Iran and Syria have agreed that 50,000 Iranian nationals would go on a pilgrimage to Syria every year, IRNA quoted Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash as saying on Wednesday.

In addition, Tehran and Damascus explored ways to facilitate and boost mutual tourism ties between the two nations, the minister said.

Bazrpash arrived in Syria on Tuesday morning at the head of a high-ranking delegation and was welcomed by Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Samer al-Khalil. During the two-day stay in Syria, the two countries' officials are discussing the ways for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

As a result of the Syrian War, which began in 2011, tourism in Syria has greatly declined, even though Syria has some of the oldest cities in West Asia, such as Damascus and Aleppo (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Before the Syrian Civil War, 8.5 million tourists visited Syria in 2010, generating revenue of \$8.4 billion and contributing 14% to the national economy. Tourist numbers had decreased by more than 98 percent by 2015.

## Isfahan museums register 215,000 visits during Eid al-Fitr holidays

TEHRAN – Cultural heritage museums and sites in Isfahan province have registered some 215,000 visits during the Eid al-Fitr holidays on April 22 and 23.

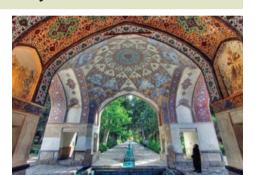
215,000 visits to Isfahan's cultural heritage sites and museums were registered during the Eid al-Fitr holidays, the provincial tourism chief said on Tuesday.

Visited by 88,000 people [the UNESCO-registered] Fin Garden of Kashan attracted the highest number of visitors during the two-day festivity, Alireza Izadi said.

Chehel Sotoun Palace, which its architecture reminds an Achaemenid-inspired talar (columnar porch) style, was named the second-most visited attraction, the official said.

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once been a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Moreover, Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesfe-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world";



meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside. The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Constructed in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Modern Isfahan is home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts. However, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem. The city is also home to a gigantic, professional, and state-of-the-art healthcare city, which is a major destination in the realm of medical tourism.

## Eid al-Fitr holidays: Ali-Sadr Cave records over 24,000 visits



TEHRAN – During the two-day holiday of Eid al-Fitr, Ali-Sadr water cave in the west-central province of Hamedan, was visited by over 24,000 people, a local official has said.

Moreover, some 95,000 people visited the natural attraction since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Karim Maleki said on Wednesday.

Ali-Sadr water cave is a top destination for domestic and foreign sightseers, researchers, history buffs, and day-trippers.

The cave is a gigantic water-filled cavern wieldy believed to date from the Jurassic era. It embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several kilometers.

The entrance to the lengthy cave is situated some 70km north of Hamadan.

Sightseeing there is connected with traversing well-lit labyrinths of waterways via paddle

boats, walking on subterranean islets, as well as observing rock carvings of hunting scenes, artifacts, paintings, and vessels that are associated with prehistorical troglodytes.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamedan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

About 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongols. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy

Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are among Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

## Mazandaran: a picture-perfect destination for nature lovers

TEHRAN – Sometimes referred to as a "paradise in the North", Mazandaran province is a precious gem in Iran's tourism industry.

Sandwiched between the southern coast of the Caspian Sea and the Alborz mountains, Mazandaran has something to offer for every nature lover. From breathtaking landscapes and lush green forests to scrumptious food.

Its ever-present green landscapes provide a perfect backdrop for hiking, biking, and exploring. Visitors can take a stroll at the stunning Larijan hot springs, one of the most famous natural attractions in the region, and relax after a long day of exploring.

The varied nature of the province features plains, prairies, forests, and rainforest stretching from the sandy beaches of the Caspian Sea to the rugged and snowcapped Alborz sierra, including Mount Damavand, one of the highest peaks and volcanos in Asia. More than 800 registered historical and cultural sites, 338 km of shorelines, mineral springs in jungles and mountains, waterfalls, and caves are among the major tourist attractions in the province.

Mazandaran is one of the most densely populated provinces in Iran and has diverse natural resources, notably large reservoirs of oil and natural gas. The province's four largest counties are Sari, Amol, Nour, and Tonekabon.

Human habitation in the area dates back to 75,000 years ago. Recent excavations in Gohar Tappeh in Behshahr is a proof that the area has been urbanized for more than 5,000 years, and the area is considered one of the most important historical sites of Iran. Based on archaeological studies conducted in the caves of Kamarband and Hutu, near the city of Behshahr, it seems that the human presence in the area of Mazandaran dates back some 9500 years BC.

From a geographical point of view, Mazandaran can be divided into two parts, i.e. coastal plain and the mountainous area. It has a variety of climates, including the mild and humid climate of the Caspian shoreline and the moderate and cold climate of mountainous regions. The Caspian Sea, the largest lake in the world, is a major draw for nature enthusiasts. Mazandaran's coastline is dotted with some of the most beautiful beaches, such as Ramsar Beach, Sisangan Beach, and Tonekabon Beach. Sunbathing and taking a dip in the sea are popular activities at these beaches.

When it comes to local cuisine, the Mazandaran region is a food lover's paradise as well. The region is well-known for its diverse cuisine made with fresh and organic ingredients. Many of its popular dishes have a flavorful mix of white rice, fish, and herbs, cooked with sour orange juice.

Its distinctive dishes include: Aghuz Mossama (walnut dish), Tah Chin, Torsh Torshu, Do Pati, Espenasak, pumpkin soup, Esfenaj Marji, Kahi Anar (a dish made from pumpkins), Naz Khatun, Qaliye, Khoresht-e Alu and Aghuznun.

What to buy when it comes to souvenirs and craftsmanship? Some of the main handicrafts and souvenirs of Mazandaran are kilim carpets, jajims, dishes, potteries, ceramics, plates, woodwork, felt fabrics, and various types of jams and pickles.

In the early 20th century, by constructing seven new roads and railways, the provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan became known as Shomal by all Iranians (meaning "the North" in Persian).

#### Over 790,000 pilgrims visit Mashhad on Eid al-Fitr

TEHRAN – Over 790,000 pilgrims visited the holy city of Mashhad during the two-day Eid al-Fitr holidays, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, a local tourism official has said.

A total of 793,404 pilgrims paid visits to the city, which shows a 34 percent increase in comparison to the same period last year, Seyyed Javad Mousavi explained on Wednesday.

The holidaymakers also made over 721,000 overnight stays in the accommodation centers of the city during the time mentioned, the official added.

Normally, Mashhad's holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) where the eighth Shia Imam is laid to rest, is visited by an average number of 500,000 pilgrims each day, according to Astan Quds Razavi which manages the shrine complex

and other associated institutions

That spiritual tradition of pilgrimage along with sustained efforts to safeguard hospitality services for Razavi pilgrims may join UNESCO's listing of cultural treasures as Iran has asked the United Nations cultural agency to recognize the concept of 'Good safeguarding practices to improve hospitality services for Razavi Pilgrims'.

Moreover, the architectural design of the complex has also complied with these traditions and rituals to address the needs of people and the urban landscape.

Historical data suggests that the complex has been developed in different stages of time according to the needs of the people and rituals associated with the holy shrine, yet the structure, design concepts, forms, material, tangible and intangible aspects, morphology, entering circumstances, praying rites and the spirit of the complex retained its authenticity and integrity the whole time and with legal and religious support of authorities and people.

This year's Ramadan began on March 23, which falls in spring in Iran, and ended on April 22. Because of the nature of the lunar calendar system, the dates of Ramadan vary each year and there is always a sort of disagreement among scholars as to when Ramadan precisely starts or comes to an end.

By tradition, the new moon crescent, which is sighted by the naked eye, marks the beginning of a new lunar month, but these days, Muslims prefer to lean towards astronomical calculations to avoid such confusion.

#### 9,000-year-old Tepe Sarab on verge of destruction

TEHRAN – Tepe Sarab, a 9,000-year-old archaeological hill in the western province of Kermanshah, is under threat of destruction, an Iranian archaeologist said on Wednesday.

A railroad project destroyed parts of the hill, and urban expansion has resulted in construction debris being dumped in this area, Hojjat Darabi stated.

The soil collected during the excavation for the completion of the Kermanshah railway project is piled up next to the ancient site, and farmers use this soil to fill holes in their fields, he explained.

As a result, the bed of an ancient



stream nearby was filled with soil, dried, and disappeared, he added.

The stream was of high importance, as it formed the 9,000-year-old Tepe Sarab, and the ancients settled next to the stream and its freshwater spring, he noted.

As nearby villages are constantly developing and expanding, it is common for construction debris to be dumped near the site and sometimes even on the ancient site and the height of this construction debris can often reach as high as five meters, he mentioned.

In the future, this may cause major problems for archaeological surveys on the site, he said.

In 1960 Robert Braidwood of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute moved into the Kermanshah Plain and partially excavated Tepe Sarab for the first time.

It was subsequently inspected

by researchers from the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto excavations concluded that the site was occupied around 6,000 BC. The University of Toronto excavations lead to the discovery of approximately 2,400 clay objects. Although Tepe Sarab is not the only site where early human figurines have been discovered in Iran, it has the largest quantity of human figurines of all excavated Iranian Neolithic sites.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, including Taq-e Bostan and the UNESCO-registered Bisotun.

## Taq-e Bostan to host seminar in celebration of World Wood Day

TEHRAN – Taq-e Bostan, a magnificent Sassanid site in western Kermanshah province, is scheduled to host an international event dedicated to World Wood Day, a local tourism official has said.

For the first time in West Asia, World Wood Day will be held internationally with the participation of several countries in the region, Daryush Farmani explained on Wednesday.

The event, which will be held on August 11, offers a good opportunity to attract tourists to the region, he added.

World Wood Day is a cultural event celebrated annually to highlight wood as an eco-friendly and renewable biomaterial and to raise awareness of the key role wood plays in a sustainable world through biodiversity and forest conservation.

Taq-e Bostan consists of a series of properties from prehistoric to historical periods such as Morad-Hassel Tepe, an ancient village, a Parthian graveyard, and a Sassanid hunting ground. However, the most significant property of the complex belongs to the Sassanid one which comprises two porticos (large and small Ivans) as well as outstanding bas-reliefs

from the same period.

According to Lonely Planet, the site's extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings, which are inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, divide opinions. Some travelers feel disappointed by the Taq-e Bostan experience, as there's a relatively high admission price for a few stone carvings and a duck pond, both of which are viewed easily from outside the fence. For Iranians, a visit is a joyous celebration of their incredible Persian heritage. Whether you immerse yourself or crank up the zoom lens is up to you.

Taq-e Bostan was originally the site of a Parthian royal hunting garden, but the Sassanians later added their own regal stamp. Its biggest alcove features elephant-mounted hunting scenes on the sidewalls and highlight the coronation of Khosrow II (r 590–628), beneath which the king rides off in full armor and chain mail (half a millennium before the European Black Prince made it fashionable).

The second niche shows kings Shapur III and his Roman-stomping grandfather Shapur II. To the right of the niches is a fine tableau again showing Shapur II (r 379–383), in which he is depicted trampling over

the Roman emperor Julian the Apostate (whom he defeated in 363) and receiving a crown of blessings from the Zoroastrian god Mithras.

It is said that late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond. The surrounding open-air restaurants rock out till late in the evening, and the carvings are warmly floodlit. The site is 10km north of Kermanshah's city center.

Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the capital of Kermanshah province, was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sasanian dynasty.

Conquered by the Arabs in 640, the town was called Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the chief town of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501–1736) fortified the town, and the Qajars repulsed an attack by the Turks during Fath Ali Shah's rule (1797–1834). Occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 during World War I, it was evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s over the age-old Khorasan track added considerably to the importance of the city.

# Erdogan awards IRCS "For Dedication" to help quake-hit people

From page **1** • Kolivand said on February 14 that the IRCS took action to deploy search and rescue teams, as well as the required tools and supplies, to the regions of Turkey and Syria affected by the February 6 earthquake.

Kolivand noted that by utilizing search and rescue canines as well as other tools, Iran's relief personnel had been able to extract survivors from the wreckage as early as the first day.

Meanwhile, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has appreciated the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for its services during the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

"I praise the leadership and commitment of the Iranian Red Crescent Society," IFRC President, Francesco Rocca, wrote in a letter to IRCS Head Pir-Hossein Kolivand.

"I assure you that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies stands by your side in carrying out humanitarian missions," Rocca added, IRNA reported.

"Words cannot express my gratitude to the volunteers and staff of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who worked



fected areas of Syria, we reach out

to the Iranian Red Crescent Society,"

he said during a meeting with IRCS

head Pir-Hossein Kolivand, IRNA

relief and rescue services and hu-

manitarian shipments sent by Iran,

noting that Syria's health and med-

ical staff have currently and to the

extent possible, brought this crisis

"In a short time, Iranian offi-

cials and relief teams arrived in

the earthquake-affected areas of

Aleppo and, based on instructions,

under control.

The Syrian official appreciated

tirelessly to save people's lives and support the needy from the very beginning of the emergency."

"Undoubtedly, your efforts are all the more meaningful when you consider the humanitarian response that the Iranian Red Crescent Society is making nationally in the Khoi region and in several provinces affected by climate problems," the IFRC president highlighted.

On February 18, Syrian Health Minister Hassan Muhammad Al-Ghabash thanked Iran for providing aid to people affected by the recent devastating earthquake.

"In order to prevent a humanitar-

started the relief operation and helping the earthquake victims."

These teams also provided very good information to the Syrian relief teams, he added.

With the help of the Iranian ambassador in Syria and the proper interaction, the aid reached the earthquake victims very quickly, he stressed.

"We are very happy to have brothers by our side who sympathized with the earthquake victims and supported the suffering people of Syria," Al-Ghabash highlighted.

In a meeting with Kolivand in March 2022, Rocca expressed satisfaction with the high number of volunteers of the IRCS worldwide and said that IRCS is one of the strongest communities in the world, which brings hope back to people's lives after every incident.

Stating that IFRC will support the IRCS's programs, he announced readiness to strengthen the Iranian Red Crescent Society's relations with other national communities because those communities can use Iran's experience and knowledge to deal with and prevent the incidents.

At present, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

## Summer warmer than normal

TEHRAN - The national center for drought and crisis management has forecasted the summer this year will be warmer than normal in the country.

forecasted

In the northern and eastern provinces of the country, the rainfall is insufficient, and even the relatively normal rainfall of the remaining days of the current water year cannot compensate for the lack of rainfall, ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, the head of the center, as saying.

The month of Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21) is the most important period in the spring season to receive rainfall in the country and is very important, he stressed.

"For example, in the month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20), usually 35 millimeters of rain is recorded in the country, but in Ordibehesht, the rainfall amounts to about 20 mm. So, the rainfall in Ordibehesht is almost twice as much as in Farvardin."

"Since the beginning of Farvardin, we have had an average of 25 mm of rain, while during this time period, we should have normally received 38 mm of rain in the long term," he said.

Therefore, about 33 percent of rainfall has decreased compared to the long term, Vazifeh noted.

The average rainfall since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2022) was 158 mm, which is 41 mm, equivalent to 21 percent, less than the long-term rainfall of 199 mm, he concluded.

On April 9, the Meteorological Organization reported that precipitations in the country have increased by 12 percent in the current water year, compared to the same period the year before

During the mentioned period, precipitations amounted to 148 millimeters, a decrease of 19 percent compared to the normal level, ISNA reported.

Rainfall has decreased by about 33 percent compared to the long term.

Data show that the country received some 62 percent of the normal precipitation over the last six months, while under normal conditions, the figure should be about 77 percent.

Only six provinces of Isfahan, Bushehr, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, and Yazd had more precipitations than normal, and in 25 provinces was less than normal.

Over the previous water year which began on September 23, 2021, precipitations decreased by about 24 percent compared to the long-



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term average, which marked another year of low precipitations for Iran.

As the newly extracted statistics show, a total of 180.4 mm of rain has poured in the country over the past water year, which shows a decline of 23.9 mm compared to the long-term average of 237.1 mm.

The last water year marked the year of low rainfall for the country, causing the continuation of dry years.

The summer season showed an increase of 19.7 mm in rainfall, which was accompanied by a growth of 71.3 mm compared to the long-term period when the amount of precipitation was 11.5 mm.

No end to the drought is in sight over the cold season, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, forecasted in January.

A temperature higher than the normal of the last 30 years is predicted, he said, ISNA reported.

In general, a rainy winter is not expected and the rainfall is likely to be less than normal, but the effects of drought in many parts of the country will be even stronger than last year, he warned.

The average rainfall in the semi-arid country of Iran is 250 mm, which is one-third of the world average. Iran's 53-year average rainfall was 250 mm, which has decreased to 232 mm in the last 13 years.

Parallel to this decrease, the increasing trend of temperature caused an increase in evaporation and a decrease in precipitations, and a sharp drop in the level of underground water resources and its limitation.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi – have been severely affected by the drought.

The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and power generation is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

#### Department of Environment to hold five intl. meetings



TEHRAN – The Department of Environment will hold five international meetings in the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, DOE chief Ali Salajeqeh said on Wednesday.

"At least five international meetings will be held this year, one of which is the conference on combating sand and dust storms," he added, IRNA reported.

One of the approvals of the regional meeting of environment ministers, which was held in Iran last summer, was the establishment of a regional dust organization, he highlighted.

"Environmental diplomacy is the main priority for the country's political diplomacy, so holding the conference on combating sand and dust storms is important for us."

So far, 11 meetings of the national headquarters for policymaking and controlling dust storms have been held and the results of these meetings should be evaluated and made public, he stressed.

In February, Salajeqeh said that based on the successful experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of combating sand and dust storms, the United Nations introduced Iran as the host of the international conference on combating sand and dust storms, IRIB reported.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in July, this meeting will be held in Tehran with the presence of the environment

ministers of the world countries, Salajeqeh said.

In the field of diplomacy, the Department of Environment has held meetings with neighboring countries to the extent that Egypt has also announced its readiness to attend the Tehran meeting, he highlighted.

He pointed out that a delegation from Iran will travel to Iraq in the near future to discuss the issue of sand and dust storms in order to make decisions to deal with the problem.

In July 2022, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

Addressing the opening ceremony, President Ebrahim Raisi emphasized that the preservation of the environment is essential and an inevitable priority.

Raisi had earlier obliged the Department of Environment to diligently pursue the solution of sand and dust storms through diplomacy and international forums, as well as interaction with neighboring countries.

"Conservation of the ecosystem and environment, which is a global concern, especially for countries of the region, is an inevitable priority today. If the environment is not safe and peaceful for people, the development will not be in its proper place and it will even become a threat to human health." Raisi stated.

The SDS phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused prob-

lems in many provinces.

According to studies, eight large sand and dust storm hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries are affecting Iran.

Regional maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively.

According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up

To deal with sand and dust storms, positive measures have been taken inside the country.

A ten-year plan has been prepared to curb internal sources of sand and dust storms.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

In recent years, about €370 million has been

spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said in June 2022 that Iran is really at the forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

More than 80 percent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms," she noted.

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## Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by

completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake's level is now 58

cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake's water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

Although the ecological level of the lake is defined as 1,274 meters, the lake will also have favorable conditions at 1,272 meters and more than 90 percent of sand and dust storm hotspots will be eliminated.

#### افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یکهزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۸۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یکهزار و ۲۷۴ متر است. به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۸۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شدهاست. وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

هرُچند تراز یکهزار و ۲۷۴ متر به عنوان ارتفاع اکولوژیک دریاچه ارومیه اعلام شده ولی این دریاچه در تراز یکهزار و ۲۷۲ متر هم شرایط مطلوب خواهد داشت و بیش از ۹۵ درصد کانونهای ریزگرد آن رفع خواهد شد.

#### **WORLD RAMSAR SITES**

#### Zhaling Lake

Zhaling Lake is a plateau freshwater lake located on Guo Luo state of Qinghai Province, China.

The Site is a Nature Reserve and also designated as an Important Bird Area.

This high-altitude tectonic lake is the second largest lake in the source area of the Yellow River and serves as a major source of water for the upstream communities.

The wetland is also a natural reservoir belonging to one of the core areas within Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve that helps in regulating the runoffs of the region.

With unique natural environment, abundant water resources and productive grasslands, this site provides a good environment for plateau animals.

Zhaling Lake is the second largest lake in the source area of the Yellow River. It receives water from 8 important branches of the upstream Yellow River.

plays an important role in flood prevention and water storage.

The topography of the lake basin can benefit sediment retention and maintains good water

With a storage capacity of 4.67 billion m3, it

quality for the surroundings and the down-stream areas.

#### Biological diversity

This Ramsar site is one of the hotspots of biodiversity in Tibetan Biogeographic Province, Palaearctic Realm.

Since 2001, multiple scientific surveys led by Chinese Academy of Forestry have been conducted on Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve.

The survey results show that this area is among the most species-rich areas in this biogeographic region, with up to 2,300 plant species, up to 85 mammal species, up to 238 bird species, and up to 40 fish species (Liu et al., 2005).

Zhaling Lake is a core of this reserve and provides perching and breeding places for many birds, such as Tadorna ferruginea, Larus brunnicephalus, Larus ichthyaetus, Phalacrocorax carbo, Anser indicus, Grus nigricollis.

The lake is rich in fish (such as Gymnocypris eckloni and Platypharodon extremus). Also, there are some birds only living in Qinghai Province on the Qinghai –Tibet Plateau, such as Tetraogallus tibetanus, Pseudopodoces humilis, Perdix hodgonice.

Source: Ramsar.org

### EHRAN TIMES



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**APRIL 27, 2023** 

#### **GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Lying would negatively influence your livelihood. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:02

Evening: 19:06

Dawn: 3:44 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 5:16 (tomorrow)

#### **Collections of Persian art in Japan**

Part 3

Each of the 32 neighborhood float-cart preservation associations (hozonkai) is responsible for one of the floats and its trappings (assembly, cleaning, disassembly, storage), and their joint activities are coordinated through the Gion Festival Float-cart Federation (Gion Matsuri Yamaboko Rengokai).

Several of the associations, such as the Minami-Kannon-Yama Hozonkai and the Naginata-Boko Hozonkai, own Persian carpets.

In the late 16th and 17th centuries the wealthy citizens of Kyoto, mostly textile dealers and artisans, vied with one another in purchasing luxurious imported textiles, some Chinese, some Persian and Indian, in order to adorn the huge Gion Festival floats.

For the past five hundred years these festival trappings have been displayed to the public during the procession through the city.

Among the float trappings are seven Persian pile carpets, five of which are of the so-called Herat type in exceptionally good condition, while two others are of the so-called Polonaise type made of silk with metallic threads.

The piles of the latter two carpets are very worn. They may have been woven under Shah Abbas I (r. 1587-1629) in Kashan or Isfahan.

Their present condition suggests that they may have been sold or given away to the townsfolk after having been used long enough by members of the ruling class.

These carpets lack, however, the documentation to prove precisely how and when they were imported into Japan and transferred to their present owners.

Museums and research centers: The majority of the Persian artifacts that came to Japan from the 19th century onward were purchased after World War II.

These consist of diverse types of ancient earthenware vessels, modern ceramics, tiles, and glassware.

The appeal of earthenware and ceramics to the Japanese is well known; and the considerable quantity of Persian glassware in Japanese public and private collections may be explained by such an attraction, which dates back to the Shosoin treasures.

The following list of major museums and other institutions indicates the main types of their Persian holdings.

(1) National and regional museums: National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka: modern carpets and ceramics, ethnic art, and modern Persian handicrafts.

Tokyo National Museum: ancient and Islamic ceramics, glassware, and textiles. Matsudo Museum, Chiba: glassware.

Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum: Islamic metalwork; of particular interest is a Seljuk bronze lantern. Nara International Foundation. commemorating the Silk Road Exposition (N. Egami and J. Gluck Collections): ancient earthenware and Islamic ceramics. Yokohama Museum of Eurasian Cultures (N. Egami collection): ancient and Islamic

(2) Private museums founded by individuals: Bridgestone Museum of Art, Tokyo: ceramics; glassware. Eisei Bunko Museum of Art, Tokyo: Islamic ceramics; modern carpets.

Hakutsuru Fine Art Museum, Kobe: Modern carpets. Matsuoka Museum of Art, Tokyo: ceramics. Miho Museum (Shumei Culture Foundation). Shiga: Achaemenid and Sasanian metalwork; glassware; Seljuk pottery; of particular interest are the Sanguszko carpet, Figdor silk kilim, luster-painted ware, and mina'i wares.

Ohara Museum of Art, Okayama: Islamic ceramics and tiles. Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum, Yamanashi: silverware; glassware; tiles; textiles: coins.

Tokugawa Art Museum, Nagoya: classical carpets. Toyama Memorial Museum of Art, Saitama: brocades; modern pile carpets. Yamato Bunkakan Museum, Nara: ceramics.

Single-theme collections: Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Seto: prehistoric, ancient, and Islamic ceramics. Ancient Orient Museum, Tokyo: ancient pottery; clay figurines; Islamic ceramics and coins.

Okayama Orient Museum: ancient and Islamic ceramics; tiles; glassware; coins; jewelry; seals; Sassanid metalware; Safavid and Qajar textiles; of particular interest are tiles from Takht-e Solayman.

Middle East Culture Center in Japan, Tokyo: prehistoric and ancient earthenware; bronze figurines; ancient and Islamic ceramics; tiles; Sassanid and Islamic metalwork; glassware; Safavid and Qajar textiles; miniature paintings; coins; of particular interest are a Sassanid silver plate with an equestrian hunting scene and a small prayer niche (mehrab) tile with the ninety-nine names (al-asma' al-hosna "beautiful names") of Allah.

University collections: Hiroshima University: painted and burnished pottery; archeological materials. Tenri University Sankokan Museum, Nara: Sassanid or proto-Sassanid silverware and Islamic pottery.

Tokyo University Museum: painted pottery, glassware, and archeological materials. University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki: glassware, clay figurines, and archeological materials.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica. Concluded.

#### Translations of Persian works into Japanese

Japanese scholars in the late 19th century began to embark on Oriental studies outside the traditional fields (out of fashion after the Meiji Restoration of 1868) of Chinese literature and Confucian learning.

Some were attracted to Persia, initially by its literary heritage. Thus Japanese readers were introduced to the Persian classics with translations of Omar Khayyam's Robaiyat and Ferdowisi's Shahnameh, and these works still serve as the primary representatives in Japan of the field of Iranian literature.

Classical Persian literature: The Robaiyat attributed to Omar Khayyam was first introduced to Japanese academia by the teacher and scholar Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904), the celebrated Japanologist and author of many works on Japan and Japanese subjects, in a lecture at Imperial University of Tokyo in September 1896 (cf. the

school lecture in Hearn, 1926).

Kambara Ariake, who was present at the lecture, was so fascinated and moved by the Robaiyat that he translated into Japanese six pieces from Edward FitzGerald's (1809-83) version of the quatrains and published them in 1908.

Another translation of FitzGerald, by Shun Osumi and Shofu Osumi, was published the same year in Tokyo. There followed other translations, mostly based on FitzGerald, by Bunkichi Katano (1914), Shigeru Araki (1920), Sofu Taketomo (1921 and 1947), Hojin Yano (1935 and 1938), Ryo Mori (1941 and 1948), Ryoho Horii (1947), Ryosaku Ogawa (1948), Tetsuo Nagiri (1949), Eizo Sawa (1960), Reiichi Gamo (1964, 1973, and 1983), Tsuneo Kuroyanagi (1973), Toshihiko Ogata (1984), Rio Mori (1986), Katsuyaki Yamaji (1988), and Toshinaga Ida (1989).

To be continued.

## New Persian novel "Jack London Train" explores war-torn Abadan in 1980s

TEHRAN - In his latest adult novel "Jack London Train", writer Farhad Hassanzadeh, best known for his children's books, has focused on the repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war during the 1980s in his hometown Abadan in southwestern Iran.

The novel was completed about 20 years ago when the writer was forty, he said after the Tehranbased publisher Ofog released the novel in mid-March in its "Today's Literature" series.

"Now that I have reached sixty, the publisher sent me a copy of the novel with a bunch of flowers and a box of confections," he asserted.

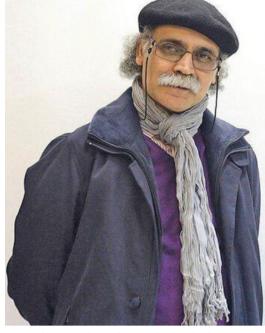
The novel shows how the life of a family in Abadan is completely transformed after the war breaks out in the town.

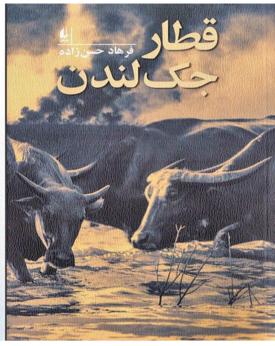
It aims to shed light on the dark corners of the lives of people in southwest Iran who experienced

"After I received the book and took a look at it, I read a few pages," Hassanzadeh said.

"I had a special feeling; the world I'd created in my mind, all fifty characters and scenes in the story, all their internal and external conflicts, all drafts, the whole history and geography of the story, the characters' psychology and many other things have been brought in a book comprised of only 400 pages," he explained.

"I thought for a while that the book was too short to express





A combination photo shows writer Farhad Hassanzadeh and the front cover of his latest novel "Jack London Train".

the stories of its characters, only some of which unfold in this novel," noted Hassandzadeh, who has received nominations for several international literary awards, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award and Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA).

Hassandzadeh said that he wanted to write "Jack London Train" in several volumes, but the conditions evolved in such a way that made it impossible.

"Sometimes, silence and

expressive," he noted.

Hassandzadeh has previously said that his dramatic view in "Jack London Train" was under the influence of the distinguished Persian novelist Ahmad Mahmud.

He is currently a nominee of Iran's Association of Writers for Children and Youth for the 2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA).

The association said, "With a professional career spanning nearly four decades, Farhad Hassanzadeh sometimes, white pages are more has produced amazing stories for

children and young adults; stories which have been acclaimed by readers and received Iranian and foreign prizes."

He has been selected for his concern for the environment, issues on women and girls in the modern world, and human values such as peace, friendship and children's rights as well as his different view of wars.

His children's books have been translated into several languages, including English, Turkish and

#### Zlin festival picks "The Lovely Sky", "Katvoman"



A scene from "The Lovely Sky" by Iranian director Amir Mehran.

TEHRAN - "The Lovely Sky" and "Katvoman", two shorts by Iranian directors, have been selected to be screened at the 63rd Zlin Film Festival.

Written and directed by Amir Mehran, "The Lovely Sky" has been produced at the 🛮 student fiction, animation and documentary 🖯 the 2021 edition of the festival.

Institute for Intellectual Development of work from all over the world. Children and Young Adults - Kanoon.

It will compete in the animation category of the festival, which will take place in the Czech city of Zlin from June 1 to 7.

The film follows an impatient fighter pilot who bombs cities every day. He returns to his little girl every night after completing his mission. The girl loves to fly, but the father doesn't fulfill his daughter's dream because of the bitter memory of his wife's death. The war is getting closer every day. One day an incident changes their lives, forever.

"The Lovely Sky" won the best animation prize at the 2022 Roshd International Film Festival in Tehran.

"Katvoman", a co-production of Iran and India, has been selected to be screened at the Zlin Dog section, which presents a selection of

Directed by Hadi Sheibani, the short drama won the award for best fiction at the 2022 Festival International du Film Amateur de Kelibia – FIFAK in Tunisia.

The film shows a mom and her son playing dressed up as Batman and Catwoman before dad returns for dinner. Through the play, the child discovers a difficult truth about his parents.

The Zlin Film Festival is an active member of the European Children's Film Association. The festival organizes an extensive supporting, professional and charitable program.

Iranian filmmakers have always been frequent visitors to the festival.

Iranian director Majid Majidi's child labor drama "Sun Children" won the Golden Slipper for best feature film in the junior category of

#### Ann E. Lucas' book on history of Persian musical traditions published in Farsi

TEHRAN - The Markaz Publishing House in Tehran has published Ann E. Lucas' book "Music of a Thousand Years: A New History of Persian Musical Traditions" in Persian.

Sahand Soltandoost is the translator of the book originally published by the University of California Press in 2019.

Iran's particular system of traditional Persian music has been long treated as the product of an ever-evolving, ancient Persian culture.

In "Music of a Thousand Years", Lucas argues that this music is a modern phenomenon indelibly tied to changing notions of Iran's



Rather than considering a single Persian music history, Lucas demonstrates cultural dissimilarity and discontinuity over time, bringing to light two different notions of music-making in relation to premodern and modern musical norms.

An important corrective to the

of a Thousand Years" is the first work to align an understanding of Middle Eastern music history with the current understanding of the region's political history. Lucas is an assistant professor of

ethnomusicology in the Department of Music at Boston College, where she also teaches in the Islamic Civilizations and Societies Program.

She is recognized for her work on music historiography of the Middle East. On its back cover, the original edition

carries comments from three renowned experts, including Kamran Scot Aghaie, an associate professor of Iranian history

history of Persian music, "Music at the University of Texas.

He wrote, "Ann E. Lucas very effectively combines historical analysis, ethnomusicology, and musicology to provide a broad, holistic explanation for complex, nuanced processes of change."

"The book is very well written and highly original in its approach and is a major contribution to the field. I found answers to many questions I had been pondering for years—not only about technical aspects of the twelve magam and radif systems, but also about broader historical patterns of change in the music traditions of Iran and the Persianate world," he added

#### Ordinary People Who Made the Right Decisions left to defend his country in the war rather than

An interview with Hamideh Ashournia

The book "This Was Not a Coming" is about martyr Alireza Khulus Dehghanpour, who was one of the commanders of Quds Battalion of Gilan.

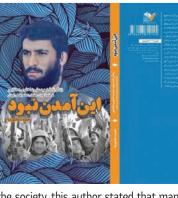
This book, written by Hamideh Ashournia, introduces the different periods of this martyr's life, from childhood to martyrdom, in eleven chapters, and deals with him moral characteristics and personal life.

Hamideh Ashournia enjoyed writing and studied social sciences. She began using social media to write around six years ago. At first, she published her diary more for interest's sake, but thanks to the advice of her friends, this process evolved into creating texts and articles for news organizations, and as a result, she started taking writing more seriously.

She claimed that he was a brave man who bravely

In response to the question of how was the process of collecting and compiling documents for the book, Ashournia explained that a group of students interested in the character of this martyr had spontaneously and of course a little unprofessionally collected numerous interviews, from which interviews in Of course, I tried to write the book in a more detailed and specialized way.

Regarding the impact that such books can have on



the society, this author stated that many times we use the excuse of being ordinary to avoid doing great things and effective social activities, while martyrs were ordinary people who made the right decisions in critical situations, and took effective steps.

#### staying and creating memories for his two young children, ages three and four, and that this book was written as a way to honor his family, particularly the children of martyrs. This author continued that good research was done to collect and write the biography of this